

Learning and Living the Bible Together

Romans 8

1. Followers of Christ are forgiven and inhabited by the Spirit of God. (vv. 1-4)

- a) We have the promise of no condemnation if we are in Christ.
- b) We are to walk with the Spirit leading us.

*NOTE: There is dramatic change in this chapter. The book of Romans now really introduces the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God residing in the saved person is a tremendous promise. (Gal. 5:16, 25)

2. Followers of Christ are given power to live in victory. (vv. 5-13)

- a) Salvation results in a changed life and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in that life. Salvation is not fire insurance. See 1 Cor. 2:14-16.
- b) Nothing done in the flesh can please God. There are only 2 types of people — saved and lost; in the Spirit and in the flesh. Flesh here is not just sin but is shown as those without Him.
- c) Victory over sin and our fleshly nature occurs through the Holy Spirit working within us (vv. 12-13)
 - We are under obligation. It is not us. We cannot have victory according to us. See Gal. 5:16,25; 2 Cor. 10:4-5.

3. The Spirit of God confirms our change and our adoption into the family of God. (vv. 14-16)

- a) We are in His family and forever changed. (Heb. 2:14-15)
- b) We are given an intimate, family relationship with Him. (Eph. 1:3-5)
- c) The Spirit confirms in our heart that we are His child. Confirmation can occur through our hatred of sin, evidence of fruit of Spirit in us, etc.

4. Followers of Christ have a beautiful future. (vv. 17-25)

- a) We are heirs with Him! (Col. 1:12; 3:24; Matt 25:34; Titus 3:7; Eph. 1:3-5)
- b) We will be with Him in glory! (Rev. 21:3)
- c) We will participate in suffering for a season. As a believer, suffering is part of the call. In addition, we live in a world impacted by sin so there will be suffering.

d) We longingly look toward our heavenly future and the destruction of sin in the world.

- The eternal benefits of heaven far outweigh the temporary trials and suffering of this world. (2 Cor. 4:17-18)

- Keep an eternal perspective on life and it's events.

- Persevere and endure in Him.

5. The Spirit of God is given to us to help us in our weakness. (vv. 26-27)

Ever felt your heart was so heavy and burdened and you did not know how to pray? God is still there and praying for you. (in sickness, death, burdened for a family member, fear)

a) Helps us to pray.

b) Intercedes for us. God intercedes for you even when you do not know it.

6. Followers of Christ have certainty that God is at work in their life. (v. 28)

a) God sovereignly works in all things in the life of the follower of Christ. He works to correct us. He works through tragedies, new situations that scare us, etc. He is working even when we cannot see or understand.

* Our response? Love Him, rest in your call, trust Him.

7. God is at work in the life of each follower of Christ to mold them to be in the image of Christ. (vv. 29-30)

a) God does not save a person without actively working in that life to change them.

b) God sovereignly works by His grace in our lives to save us and change us.
(John 6:37,44, 65; 1 Pet. 1:1-2,20; Eph. 1:4-5; 2 Tim. 1:9. 2 Thess. 2:13-14)

c) God promises us a glorious future with Him and we are secure in our salvation in Him.

8. Followers of Christ have been given victory in Jesus and are eternally loved by Him! (vv. 31-38)

a) God does not call a Christian to a life of defeat or of discouragement.

b) God does not call a Christian to a life of fear nor to a life without purpose.

c) God is on the side of the Christian. He is actively working for your good.

- Jesus died for you, paid for your sin, and called you. Rejoice!

d) NOTHING separates us from the love of God.

How should we respond? With Joy, Trust, Confidence in Him!!

But we may have questions....

What about my salvation? Can I lose my salvation?

Christians are secure in their salvation but only Christians saved by grace through faith.

Scripture tells us that some will be deceived.

John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:16,30; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Phill. 1:6; 1 John 5:11-13; Jude 24

But see 1 John 2:19 and Matt. 7:15-23

Am I ever truly alone?

You are never alone in Christ.

Heb. 4:15; 13:5; 1 Cor. 6:19; Rom. 8:30-39

Am I ever truly unloved?

You are always loved by God.

Rom. 8:30-39

Am I ever not cared for?

You are always cared for by Him.

Matt. 6:25-34; 1 Peter 5:8

What about how I feel? I feel like I am unloved? I feel like I once was saved but now I am not.

Following our feelings can be dangerous. Look at Scripture and rest in His promises. But we also need to examine ourselves and see if we are truly saved by His grace. We should look to see if we have evidence of fruit in our lives due to His work in us.

Jer. 17:9; Prov. 12:15, 28:26. But look at 1 John 5:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8; Ps. 18:1-3;

John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:16

Can I be so far away from God that the devil and his demons cause me to lose my salvation?

NOTHING, including the devil and demons, can take salvation away from a person saved by grace.

Rom. 8:30-39; John 10:28-29

Sometimes I do not feel happy. It seems like Christians are just always supposed to be happy no matter the situation. Are we being realistic?

There is a difference between joy and happiness. We are told to rejoice but sometimes we are not happy. Jesus wept. Christians are told to take up the cross, an instrument of death.

Suffering and heartache will happen. But we have the offer of peace and care found only in Christ. We also are reminded that we in the Christian body are to care for and encourage one another.

John 11:35; Luke 9:23-24; Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Peter 5:8; Phill. 4:6-7; Heb. 10:24-25; Ps. 16:11; John 15:11; Phill. 4:4; Ps. 13

How do I apply these verses to everyday living? I have problems, sometimes big ones.

- A) Rejoice and rest in His grace shown to you.
- B) Believe His Word.
- C) Yield to Him each day.
- D) Trust Him.
- E) Share life with one another.

—> Romans 8 is a beautiful chapter that reminds us of His grace, His promises, His work, and His love extended toward us.

HALLELUJAH! WHAT A SAVIOR! WHAT A GREAT SALVATION!