

ROMANS 8:1-11

LIFE UNDER GRACE:

THE ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

Paul's encouragements: resist sin and yield to God.

- “...sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under law, but under grace” (6:14)
- Paul concluded chapter 7 with the futile struggle of a man seeking justification and righteousness under law.
- Paul's cry for help (7:24) is quickly followed by thanksgiving (7:25a).
 - Deliverance from sin is provided in Jesus
 - In Jesus we are not alone
- Chapter 8 unfolds an understanding of this help

Deliverance from condemnation

There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. (8:1)

- When we were “in the flesh” and everything depended on our own ability to attain righteousness by keeping law, we were doomed to condemnation
- Now it is different. We serve in the “newness of the spirit”.
- In Jesus (by baptism, 6:1-11), we are made totally new and there is no condemnation attached to the dead man’s sin.
- No condemnation, *katakarima* or judgment against, 8:1

The reason there is no condemnation

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. (8:2)

- *“the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus”* is the power of the new life
 - We “walk in newness of life” (6:4)
 - We are “alive unto God in Christ Jesus” (6:8)
 - We serve in “newness of the spirit” (7:6)
- Contrast of two “laws” (an unusual use of the term “law”)
 - “law of sin and death”
 - “law of the Spirit of life”

Further elaboration on the reason

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (8:3-4)

Further elaboration on the reason

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, [God did, and this is how God did it -- SDC] God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (8:3-4)

“*...in the likeness of sinful flesh*”

- Not in the “likeness of flesh...” – He really was flesh, John 1:14
- Not in “sinful flesh...”,
 - Flesh is not sinful
 - Jesus did not know sin, II Corinthians 5:21
- Meaning “
- *in the flesh, but without the sin usually characteristic of the flesh...*”

“...and for sin...condemned sin in the flesh”

- Generally meaning to deal with sin
- *Katakrimo* means to judge against sin
- Romans 8:32
- I Peter 2:24

“...that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us”

- “*ordinance* of the law”
 - *dikaioma*
 - KJV “righteousness”
 - Plural is used in 2:26
 - 1:32 appears to use this word in a common non-biblical legal sense meaning punishment
 - 5:16 is a similar use “a judicial decision or sentence
 - 5:18 uses the term to refer to an act of righteousness
- The righteous demand of the law system – the death of the sinner – is met for us by substitutionary sacrifice

“...*who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit*”

- Defines the *us*
- “*after*” is from *kata* and expresses the idea of conformity to a standard
- The standard is the Holy Spirit of God
 - A law written on the hearts of believing people
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34
 - Ezekiel 36:26f

The Difference Between Flesh and Spirit, and Explanation of the Limitation on the Deliverance Through Jesus

For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (8:5-8)

Life in the Spirit

But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (8:9)

the Spirit of God dwelleth in you

The Final Victory: Liberation Completed

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you. (8:10-11)

The Ultimate Answer to Paul's question in 7:24

- The old man (a sinner condemned by law) is put to death
- We are new creatures in Jesus, walking in the Spirit
- *We continue to live in fleshly bodies*
 - Fleshly temptations are still present even though we fight against them
 - The struggle will end one day
 - We will be completely free
 - We will be delivered from this flesh and blood status

...if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin

- This conundrum was explained in 5:12f
- This body can serve as an entry point for Satan through its desires

...the spirit is life because of righteousness

- The righteousness of God communicated through God's gracious provision
- Sin is blotted out

...shall give life also to your mortal bodies

- The present indwelling of the Spirit is only the firstfruit
- The full harvest lies ahead – the redemption of the mortal body
8:23
- No power of Satan can prevent the full harvest!