

# ROMANS

Chapter 8:5-11 Flesh vs the Spirit

Chapter 8:26-30 Help of the Spirit

# The difference between flesh and Spirit

- Paul elaborates on the VAST difference between the flesh and the Spirit
  - This EXPLAINS why salvation is LIMITED to those “who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the *Spirit*”
    - Spirit in this instance, in my opinion, is the Holy Spirit – the ULTIMATE juxtaposition to the flesh
    - This is not an arbitrary divine decision, but the nature of this idea – the flesh is opposed to God – the Spirit **IS** God. Without God there is no life

# The difference between flesh and Spirit

- “minds on the things of the flesh... of the Spirit”
  - Gr. – *phroneo* – “to think” “to be intent on”
    - The things one desires, pursues, is devoted to or preoccupied with
- “For the mind of the flesh”
  - Gr. – *phronema* (akin to the verb in 5) – what one has in mind, the thoughts, and purposes, way of thinking, aim, aspiration, striving, motive

# The difference between flesh and Spirit



- “is death”
  - Is it any wonder that those whose motivation is the flesh, are NOT liberated from the “law of sin and death” (2)
  - Their whole mindset IS death. The things with which they are preoccupied have death as their end
  - How can they be given life when their mindset is death?

# The difference between flesh and Spirit

- “because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God”
  - God is LIFE. The mind that aspires to the fleshly life is at war with God – the source of ALL LIFE.
- “for it is not subject to the law of God...”
  - The mind set on flesh is diametrically opposed to the mind of God – it is bent on having its own way – it RESISTS submission to God

# The difference between flesh and Spirit

- “and those who are in the flesh cannot please God”
  - To please God, one must have a change of mind
  - This is the definition of repentance. (7:5-6)
  - A person can change their mind
  - Christians are people who were once in the flesh

# The difference between flesh and Spirit

- Life in the Spirit

- Christians on the other hand, live in the realm of the Spirit IF the Spirit of God dwells in them.

- Indwelling of the Spirit

- Ephesians 3:17, Galatians 2:20

- The Spirit is the agent by which Christ is revealed and the “mind of the Lord” is communicated (1 Cor 2:10-16,; John 16:12-15)

# Final Victory – Liberation Completed

- The answer to Paul's heartbreaking cry  
“Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death?”
  - Christians, already in Jesus are out of reach of condemnation but we will continue to struggle with sin, and will as long as we live in a fleshly body
  - We will be completely free of this flesh and blood body one day



# Final Victory – Liberation Completed

- “If Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin”
  - It is true. We must die. It is the way of all fleshly living things. (5:12)
- “yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness”
  - A righteousness given through God’s free grace (3:21-26) that forgives our sins (4:6-8)

# Final Victory – Liberation Completed

- “will also give life to your mortal bodies”
  - The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is just the beginning – it is a shadow of what lies ahead – “the first fruits of the Spirit... the redemption of our body.” (23)
- As discussed last week, this is the fullness of our **hope!**
  - “For in hope we have been saved...”
  - We persevere, eagerly awaiting for that which we do not yet see – **gracious salvation.**

# Help of the Spirit

- How will we ever make it through this?
  - We are weak, the tests of our faith seem too great.
    - The fact is “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (18)
    - The hope of glory GIVES us the power to wait it out
  - That’s not the end of it though
    - “Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness”
    - He overcomes our deficiencies in prayer, pleading for us in a manner that is consistent with God’s will
    - God knows our needs even if we do not

# Help of the Spirit

- Christians often deal with this conundrum
  - We cry “Abba Father” (15) in our distress
    - But if the Father were to respond with “What is it my son? What do you want?” How would we respond?
    - Do we really always know what we need spiritually?
    - Do we really understand WHY we are suffering? Or why we are in the situation we are in?
    - Do we know what is the best for us or what what best serve His purpose?
    - We seek help for things we don’t know and can’t express

# Help of the Spirit

- “The Spirit Himself”

- Not the spirit *itself*. We are not referring to the human spirit here
- Our spirit does not know what to pray.
- These groanings of ours are due to the influence of the Holy spirit on us. As we seek to follow and yield to the Spirit, we find ourselves groaning, unable to see what would best serve God’s purpose for us

# Help of the Spirit

- “He who searches the hearts”
  - God searches the heart
  - The Spirit’s intercession by means of groanings does not take place in heaven, but in the human heart.
  - God searches the heart and finds these groanings
- “knows what the mind of the Spirit is”
  - God recognizes the Spirit’s influence and knows the purpose and intent of the Spirit in these groanings
  - He knows the pleadings are in accord to His will

# God's benevolent purpose regarding the Saints

- God, in His providence, uses all things (even suffering) to work for good in His people to bring them to glory
  - Understanding this, we will not be defeated by trials, but will find courage to endure, knowing that even trials serve God's purpose.
  - We cry out (deficient understanding), we pray not knowing what to ask, then we are assured God understands and is working in us to do good.

# God's benevolent purpose regarding the Saints

- “We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God”
  - Even suffering, even our sins can be used for our good, if we deal with them properly, receiving correction, noting our mistakes, and learning lessons for future application
  - Those who love God are the subjects of His divine purpose
  - His purpose is achieved regardless/in spite of our actions – “***all things*** work together for good”



# God's benevolent purpose regarding the Saints

- “For those whom He foreknew”
  - Unfolding of God's divine purpose.
  - He had advanced knowledge of the people that would be His – His purpose was established before His creative processes occurred.
  - The ones He foreknew are the ones He called, they are “those who love God”, and the He justified and glorified (30)

# God's benevolent purpose regarding the Saints

- “He also predestined”
  - God determined in advance that those who He foreknew would have the same form as His son
- “that He would be the firstborn among many”
  - This was God's purpose. He wanted a family
- “He also called”
  - Through the gospel (2 Thes 2:14)

# God's benevolent purpose regarding the Saints

- “and these whom He called, He also justified”
  - He forgave them of all sins, and declares them to be righteous, not guilty, on that basis, acquitting them of guilt
- “and these whom He justified, He also glorified”
  - Past tense, though the glory is future.
  - Paul is unfolding the divine purpose
  - We see the plan completed

# Next Week

- **Triumphant Conclusion**
  - 8:31-39
  - Dean teaching