

Romans

Study on Chapters 5-8





THE EXCHANGED LIFE

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Romans Chapters 5 – 8

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Introduction

The epistle of Romans was written by Paul, probably in the city of Corinth, to the saints in Rome about 57 A.D. Romans is written in a very systematic fashion. Paul carefully builds precept upon precept to sequentially develop the truth of how the Christian is made righteous through Christ Jesus. This truth, as it is expounded in Romans and applied in the believer's life, will produce dynamic life-changes. It is one of the most profound books in the New Testament as attested to by the following individuals:

- St. Augustine was convicted of his sinful lifestyle and led to Christ through the book of Romans.
- Martin Luther espoused *"it is the chief part of the New Testament and the perfect Gospel"*.
- John Calvin declared *"it opened the door to all the treasures of the Scriptures."*
- Through the teaching of Romans, John Wesley came to trust by faith in Christ for salvation, his assurance of sins removed, and was set free from the Law of Sin and Death.
- John Darby stated that *"the epistle to the Romans especially established the grand foundation of divine truth"*.
- Calvin Coleridge believed *"it is the most profound book in existence"*.

Objective

The objective of this study is to explore the Biblical truth of how the believer is made right with God, receives the eternal life of Christ, and can therefore experience His Life and become more Christ-like in daily living. The Holy Spirit is the key to opening the door to fully understand these truths as He illuminates the doctrine and theology of the Exchanged Life. The term "Exchanged Life" refers to the spiritual regeneration of a believer, where at salvation they are united with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Romans Chapters 5-8 provides the most comprehensive understanding of the Exchanged Life. It is the most powerful truth in becoming more Christ-like.(Romans 8:28-29) The outworking of this life-changing truth in a Christian is that they are released from the mire of a self-centered life to embrace the freedom of a Christ-centered life that reflects the very character of God. It is our prayer that you will depend upon the Holy Spirit in applying these life-changing truths so that He can radically transform your life to experience the dynamic reality of a Christ-centered life.

Overview

The workbook is divided into five main sections, an introduction and four that reflect Romans chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8. Each section is divided into subsections that follow the natural divisions found in the chapters. The power point presentation provides a visual aid to assist in the student's understanding and retention of the Biblical truths taught. There are “personal reflection” questions throughout the study to aid in the practical daily application of the theological truths. The following authors are resources that can be used for further study.

Best, John E. God's Spirit in you For Power & Intimacy, Abundant Living Resources

Moule, C. G. Epistle to the Romans. Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade, 1902

Murray, John. The Epistle to the Romans (NIC). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1968

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. Romans: Assurance (Chapter 5). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1971

Romans: The New Man (Chapter 6). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1972

Romans: The Law (7:1-8:4). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1973

Romans: Sons of God (8:5-17). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1975

Romans: The Final Perseverance of the Saints (8:18-39). Grand Rapids: Erdmans, 1975

Newell, William R. Romans Verse by Verse. Chicago: Moody Press, N.D.

Stedman, Ray. From Guilt to Glory. (Two Volumes). Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Press, 1978

Ephesians 1:17-19 (PHILLIPS)

16-19 I thank God continually for you and I never give up praying for you; and this is my prayer. That God, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ and the all-glorious Father, will give you spiritual wisdom and the insight to know more of him: that you may receive that inner illumination of the spirit which will make you realize how great is the hope to which he is calling you—the magnificence and splendor of the inheritance promised to Christians—and how tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God.

A Background

Chapter 1 (NASB)

- Verse 1** Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
- Verse 2** which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,
- Verse 3** concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,
- Verse 4** who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
- Verse 5** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,
- Verse 6** among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;
- Verse 7** to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

Verse 9 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you,

Verse 10 always in my prayers making request,

Personal reflection

Who is the central figure of Romans?

How is this person validated?

Because of this person what have we received?

Are you comfortable with being called a saint? Explain.

In what way is Paul's prayer relevant for you today?

The Theme of Romans

Verse 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Verse 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “*BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.*”

Personal reflection

How has God revealed His righteousness through your walk of faith?

Righteousness by Faith

Chapter 4

Verse 1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

Verse 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Verse 3 For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

Verse 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due.

Verse 5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Martin Lloyd – Jones

"The teaching of righteousness comes before blessing and happiness ... contrast that with the church today which seeks experiences that emotionally fill them with fleeting experiences of joy and happiness but are gone in the morning"

Personal reflection

What is discredited as a means to Righteousness?

What then is credited as the only means to Righteousness?

Describe how, by faith, you understand receiving your Righteousness.

How does this contrast apply to us today?

Faith – the Essence

How is faith expressed in Heb 11:1?

Andrew Murray

“Says that Christian faith is the spiritual organ of the spirit that makes real the spiritual things of God to the soul. E.g. your organ of hearing would remain dormant until awakened by sound, so faith remains dormant until God takes the initiative and wakens faith... once awakened, faith seeks an intimate relationship with the One who has begun the relationship ... faith- is an unceasing spiritual intercourse with the unseen world around us... based on the power of God.”

Acronym for FAITH—**F**_____ **A**__ **I** **T**_____ **H**_____

Faith is not mere credence, but active trust in the utter dependability of God, and it gives man his only true stability. To have faith is to live in unreserved dependence upon the power and mercy of God.

Faith is not to be confused with mere intellectual assent to the doctrinal teachings of Christianity, though that is obviously necessary. It includes a radical surrender to Him as Lord of one’s life.

Faith is our side of union with Christ; and it is our means of possessing all His benefits, pardon, justification, purification, life, peace and glory.

Faith is important to the Christian life. As the above definitions point out, faith is an action of the will to take God at His word and to act on it. Faith is always based on the fact of what God has said.

“Imitate” (Hebrews 13:7-8 ^{amp})

A.W.Tozer

“Only the Spirit of the Holy One can impart to the human spirit the knowledge of the holy. Yet as electric power flows only through a conductor, so the Spirit flows through truth and must find some measure of truth in the mind before He can illuminate the heart. Faith wakes at the voice of truth but responds to no other sound... “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God”. Theological knowledge is the medium through which the Spirit flows into the human heart, yet there must be humble penitence in the heart before the truth can produce faith. The Spirit of God is the spirit of truth. It is possible to have some truth in the mind without having the Spirit in the heart, but it is never possible to have the Spirit apart from the truth...”

Personal reflection

Describe how you understand faith to be the essence of a relationship with God?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Romans Chapter Five

The Exchanged Life – *The Foundation*

Paul begins Chapter 5 from the position that we know and have accepted that we are made righteous by faith. “Therefore” is a transition word that refers back to the previous four chapters where Paul has clearly identified mankind’s unrighteous condition and has established that “Faith in God” is the only means of being made righteous. Now Paul goes on to explain how Jesus Christ is the only solution to mankind’s dilemma of unrighteousness. This chapter establishes the foundation for the Exchanged Life as Paul provides the systematic legal description of God’s Grace through Jesus Christ. God’s Grace opens the door to freedom and victory from sin and establishes a new identity for the believer, one that is righteous.

Chapter 5

Justified

Verse 1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Martin Lloyd - Jones

“The apostle is now going to show us that in the light of what he has been saying there are certain inevitable deductions which can be drawn and should be drawn. The whole secret of the Christian life is to know how to use the word ‘THEREFORE’ “

Definition:

JUSTIFIED Greek - dikaiow
- dikaiosunh

Amplified:

Verse 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Personal Reflection

Having been justified by faith, list from vs. 1-2 the benefits.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Suffering – the Key

Suffering is an inevitable part of our humanity and is a consequence of Adam's sin. (Job 5:7) It can appear in an endless array of forms that affect man's physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual condition. For the believer, God, who is sovereign, uses suffering to separate the believer from their self-sufficiency by bringing them to the end of their resources. Under God's control it always produces a greater awareness of their weakness while revealing God's abundant provision. Suffering is allowed by God to produce humility. Once humbled the Christian is now prepared to depend on God's all-sufficiency. That dependence develops a firm and mature faith expressed as Christian character. Scripture is clear, if we are to share in Christ's glory, then we are called also to share in His suffering.

(Scripture references on suffering; Psalms 119:67, 71, 75, 92,107, Habakkuk 3:17-19, 2 Corinthians 1:8-9, 12:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 3:9-11, 1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-13.)

Verse 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance;

Amplified:

Definition:

“exult” – to show or feel a lively or triumphant joy; rejoice exceedingly; be highly elated or jubilant

Larry Crabb ... "Your righteousness and the result of Righteous living will not necessarily preclude a pain free life "

What are the reasons given in 1 Peter 1:6-7 that we should rejoice in our suffering?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Definition:

"Thlipis" is the Greek word that is translated as *Suffering* and was used by Paul in 2 Cor.1:8-9, 2 Cor. 4:8-9 to describe how dire his suffering was.

Trent says, " suffering can be defined as an ongoing situation with no end in sight"

Verse 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

Definition:

The Greek word for *Perseverance* carries the meaning "to abide under"

Definition:

"Character" in Greek – "dokime" means sterling silver

John Best states that " our problems are a "secret" but extremely effective gift"

Verse 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

SO WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER? *Theodore Epp*

- *Affliction to the people of God is the pruning knife to the vine to prepare for a greater fruitfulness.*
- *Christian heroes have not emerged from brilliantly lighted halls of luxury and self-indulgence, but from the darkened byways of suffering and persecution.*
- *God would have no furnaces if there were no gold to separate from the dross.*
- *Great sufferers do the world's work; a crown of loftiest achievement is a crown of thorns.*
- *Examine many of your troubles and you will find your own name stamped on them as the manufacturer.*

Personal Reflection

Having been justified by faith what is:

Your Position

Your Condition

The Purpose

The Result

In what way has your personal suffering been the key to reveal God's love to you?

What do you think is the reason Paul puts suffering into this chapter before teaching on the foundation of Grace through Jesus?

The Sacrifice

Verse 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Verse 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die.

Verse 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Personal Reflection

What conditions needed to be met for Jesus to die for us?

Describe how God's love differs from human love?

How God's love is impacting you?

Looking ahead to chapter 6 what makes the contrast between vs. 5:8 and 6:8 so important?

Delivered

Verse 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Heb. 9:22, 9:12, 7:27

Watchman Nee

“ The blood is not meant to be presented to man but to God, for the blood was put on the lintel and on the door posts where those feasting inside the house would not see it “

Verse 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

“A great salvation is eternal life. By this, of course, our Lord did not mean merely eternal existence but a rich and meaningful life which begins now and extends into eternity. We must remember that eternal life in the Bible is not a static entity, a mere gift of regeneration that does not continue to grow and blossom, No! It is a dynamic relationship with Christ Himself.” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pgs. 135-136

Verse 11 And not only this, but we also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Personal Reflection

How is peace, joy, and love manifested in your life because of salvation through Jesus?

Explain how vs. 9-11 are a progressive conclusion of and prove the points made in vs. 5-8.

Suffering is frequently seen as the result of God’s wrath toward the believer, true or false, why or why not?

In the light of being saved from God’s wrath how can we now see our physical death?

In your own words describe what is meant by the phrase “so great a salvation”.

Define “much more” as applied to your life?

What *has* already taken place in vs. 9-11?

What is *now* taking place as a result of vs. 9-11?

What *will* take place because of vs. 9-11?

Death – the Plague

Verse 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-

Definition:

“*SIN*”: as used in Romans 5-8 is a noun that describes the principle of “*indwelling sin*” known as the “*Law of Sin*” or “*The Law of Sin and Death*”

“*DEATH*”: The common misconception is that death means annihilation. Two of the major results of death are separation and a change of relationship. The dictionary defines death as “the ending of life”. Keep in mind that death simply means there is no life.

Realistic view

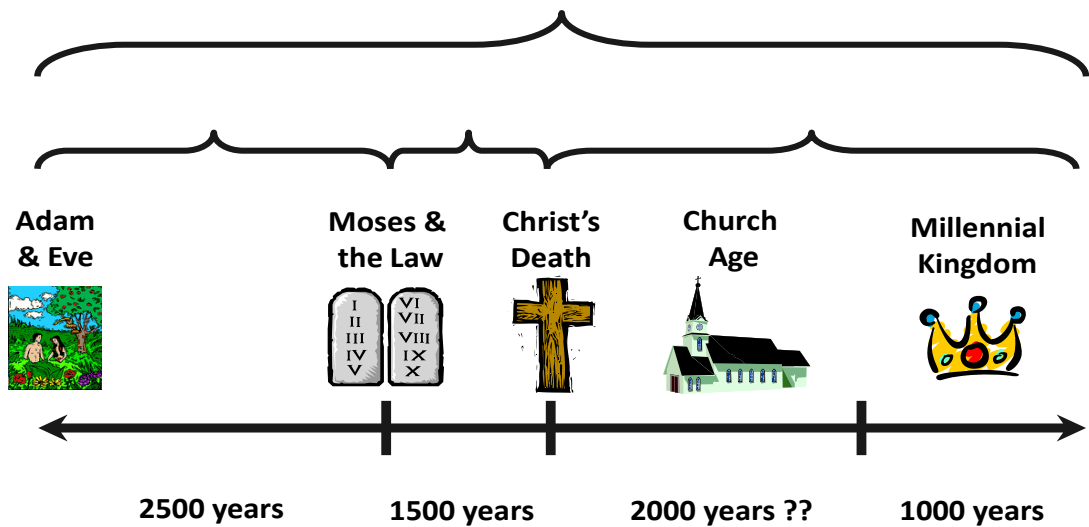
Representative view

Verse 13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Verse 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

Definition:

“reigns” in a secular dictionary is “ the possession or experience of supreme power”



History Time Line

Headship of Christ and Adam

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Personal Reflection

Explain how death is the result of sin and how death has been passed on to all mankind?

How did you become a sinner?

What effect does attempting to keep the law have?

What are the results of death as stated in vs. 12-14?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The Gift

Verse 15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many.

Verse 16 The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.

Verse 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Personal reflection

Explain what makes the “gift” greater than “death”?

What is the divine paradox identified in this section?

How is this paradox a foreshadowing of what is coming in Chapter six?

Life and Death

“Throughout the book of Romans Paul uses the terms “life and death” in various ways. Normally “life” refers to a rich present experience of Christ and not specifically regeneration. Conversely, “death” is commonly its opposite, spiritual impoverishment, and not hell.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pgs 415-416

Verse 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Definition:

“reign” – metaphorically of believers, who "shall reign in life" indicates the activity of life in fellowship with Christ in His sovereign power, reaching its fullness hereafter.

The
Abundance of

+

The Abundance
of the Gift of

=

Reigning
in

“MUCH MORE”

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Personal reflection

“Much more” sets the stage for reigning, how have you received the much more of reigning in life?

Righteousness

Verse 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.

Verse 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One, the many will be made righteous.

Verse 20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Verse 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Grace is that quality in God, that attribute of God which leads Him to be gracious toward and to bless the utterly undeserving. Grace is favour shown to people who do not deserve any favour at all, who, indeed, deserve the exact opposite.” Martin Lloyd-Jones

Personal Reflection

Who are “the many” or “the all” referred to in these vs.?

Using scripture explain why God’s Grace is not universally received by all mankind.

In your understanding what makes chapter five foundational to the exchanged life?

What does it mean for a righteous saint to reign in life?

Circle T (true) or F (false) for each of the following statements.

- T F 1. Sin entered through Satan.
- T F 2. The Law points out sin.
- T F 3. The Law causes people to sin.
- T F 4. The affect of Adam's action is the same as the effect of Christ's action.
- T F 5. Sin brings death while grace brings life.
- T F 6. The greater the number of sins committed the greater the chance of judgment.
- T F 7. We can reign in death, or we can have Life reign over us.
- T F 8. All in Adam are sinners while all in Christ are righteous.
- T F 9. The Law causes sin to be more clearly seen.
- T F 10. Eternal Life comes through keeping the Law.

The contrast between Christ and Adam are clearly laid out in this section, list the contrasting differences.

IN ADAM

IN CHRIST

| | |
|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Relate how the truth of chapter five prepares us for what is coming in chapter six.

Explain why you agree or disagree with this statement; *'you will never really discover and experience the Grace of God until you know by faith your Righteousness.'*

Romans Six

The Exchanged Life – *A New Identity*

In Chapter 5, Paul has clearly explained that Jesus Christ is the sole foundation for Grace. Jesus has removed everything that stood between us and God. We are reconciled to our heavenly Father.

Now in chapter 6 the contrast between Death and Life is further evidenced by how unredeemed mankind lives in bondage to the pallor of death because of their slavery to sin. This is contrasted to the freedom of Grace for the redeemed in Christ Jesus. Paul shows the dynamic spiritual exchange the believer under goes that results in the believer having a new spiritual identity. Since our new identity is set free from the bondage to the power of sin we are now righteous and spiritually alive to God.

Once this truth is established Paul then provides the means to know the richness of this exchange that provides the abundant Life of Jesus in our humanity

G _____ R _____ A _____ C _____ E _____

“Grace in its true New Testament meaning is foreign to human reason, not because it is contrary to reason but because it lies beyond it. The doctrine of grace had to be revealed; it could not have been discovered.” A.W. Tozer

Definition:

Grace, (secular dictionaries). In theology it is the unmerited love and favor of Christ; hence a free gift, the divine influence acting within the heart to rejuvenate, sanctify, and keep it; a state of reconciliation to God through Christ, the power as disposition to exercise not only saving faith but to live the Christian life. Or defined as: undeserved kindness and unmerited favor. Ability to be free

from sin's power. The unmerited but freely given love and favor of God toward man. The state or condition of being pleasing and acceptable to God.

Chapter 6

The Abuse

Verse 1 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

The believer's response to sin.

1.

2.

3.

"It is not possible to minister to those who cannot hear, such as legalists who know nothing of grace. For example, a legalist can be in the middle of the overt sin of an affair and still preach the next Sunday on purity. Why? How? It is simple! Legalism feeds the flesh. Sin and legalism are one and the same. There is no pressure of contrast between legalism and sin in a person's being. Unrighteousness and self-righteousness both satisfy the flesh." Mike Wells

Verse 2 May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

Personal reflection

What does it mean that we died to sin?

“However, a grace man cannot go on sinning, for the grace of God will rip him in two. When preaching grace, God will always come for that man's words in order to make him really understand grace and realize he does not have an excuse. Factor in the work of the cross! He has been crucified and is dead to sin. How, then, can he continue to sin? If he does, with this understanding, he will come apart. The standard is so much higher in grace. It is the legalist who can actually practice sin without conviction. Embrace the message of grace, practice sin, and be ripped in two!” Mike Wells

The Baptism

Definition

Baptism literally means to submerge, to immerse, to dip, to place into.

Verse 3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

“Through the baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit we are brought into organic union with Christ!” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 510

Verse 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

In Romans 6:4

“life” is ‘newness of life.’ He refers not just to regeneration but to the full experience of a ‘walk’ in newness of life.” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 416

Verse 5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

“It is not something that is felt; it is not something we can know through our senses when it takes place, it is something the Spirit does to our human spirit. Yet this baptism is essential to becoming a Christian. It is part of the process by which we share the life of Jesus Christ.”

Ray C. Stedman, From Guilt to Glory Vol1 pg. 185

Personal Reflection

Since you have been baptized into Christ, what is now true of you?

What is the importance of having been spiritually buried with Christ?

“Likeness ... means that what happened to our Lord physically has happened spiritually to us. He was physically crucified and physically raised from the dead. This happened to us spiritually, thus there is a likeness to His death and a likeness to His resurrection.”

“this union is so real, so vital, so all-encompassing, so trans-historical that when Christ died, we died. When He was raised, we were raised.”

“If you try to understand all of this completely, you may lose your mind, it is so above your human power to fully comprehend.

But if you try to live life without trust in this, you will lose your victory!”

Dick Flaten with Greg Smith, The Marvelous Exchange

“Because of the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit, uniting us to Christ, what is true of Him has become true of us!” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 510

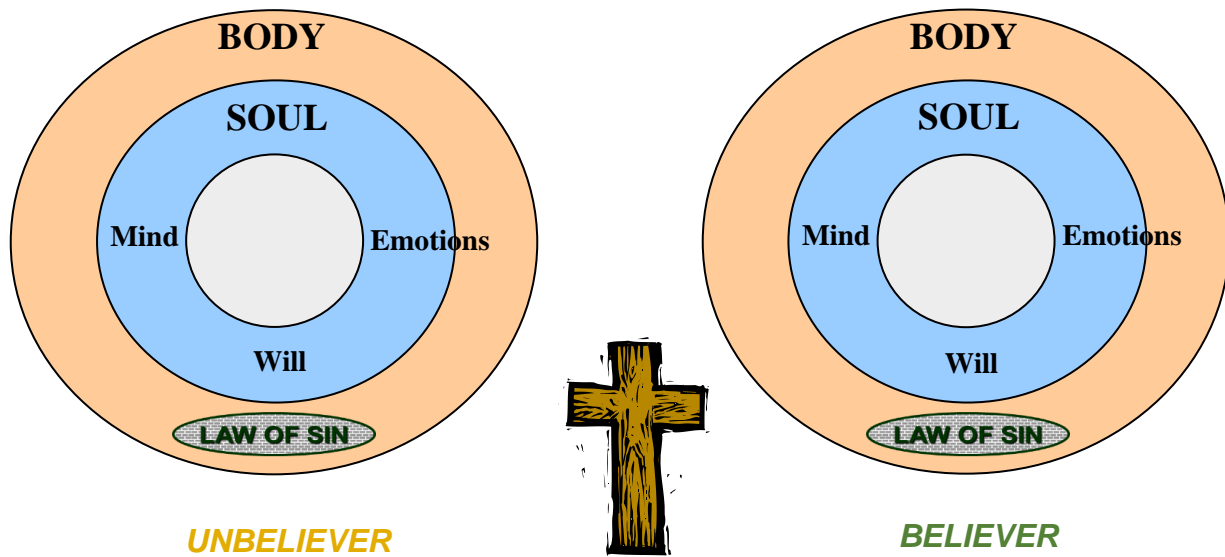
The Exchange

Verse 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

Verse 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

Definition:

1. Old self – Greek “anthropos” meaning man.
2. Body of sin
3. Done away with
4. Flesh



Galatians 2:20^{AMPC}

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ [in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ (the Messiah) lives in me; and the life I now live in the body I live by faith in (by adherence to and reliance on and complete trust in) the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

2 Corinthians 5:17^{AMPC}

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Personal Reflection

What Biblical principle is illustrated in verses six and seven?

State the spiritual results of being united with Christ in verses six and seven?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“Like Christ, the believer too has died to sin; he is one with Christ, in the likeness of His death (Romans 6:5). And as the knowledge that Christ died for our sin as atonement is indispensable to our justification; so the knowledge that Christ and we with Him in the likeness of His death, are dead to sin, is indispensable to our sanctification.” Andrew Murray, Like Christ pg. 176

The Exchange Realized

Verse 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,

Verse 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.

Verse 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

“When viewed from the single perspective of the person united to the new creation, i.e., the new man, he is perfect. That union, that identity, is man as God intends man to be.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 178

Hebrews 10:14 (AMPC)

¹⁴ For by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy.

Personal Reflection

What are the permanent results of our union with Christ?

What are the personal applications of this union to your:

Past

Present

Future

Walking in the Exchange

Verse 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Andrew Murray

“Christians need to understand that bearing the cross does not in the first place refer to the trials which we call crosses, but to the daily giving up of life, of dying to self, which must mark us as much as it did the Lord Jesus, which we need in times of prosperity almost more than adversity, and without which the fullness of the blessing of the cross cannot be disclosed to us”

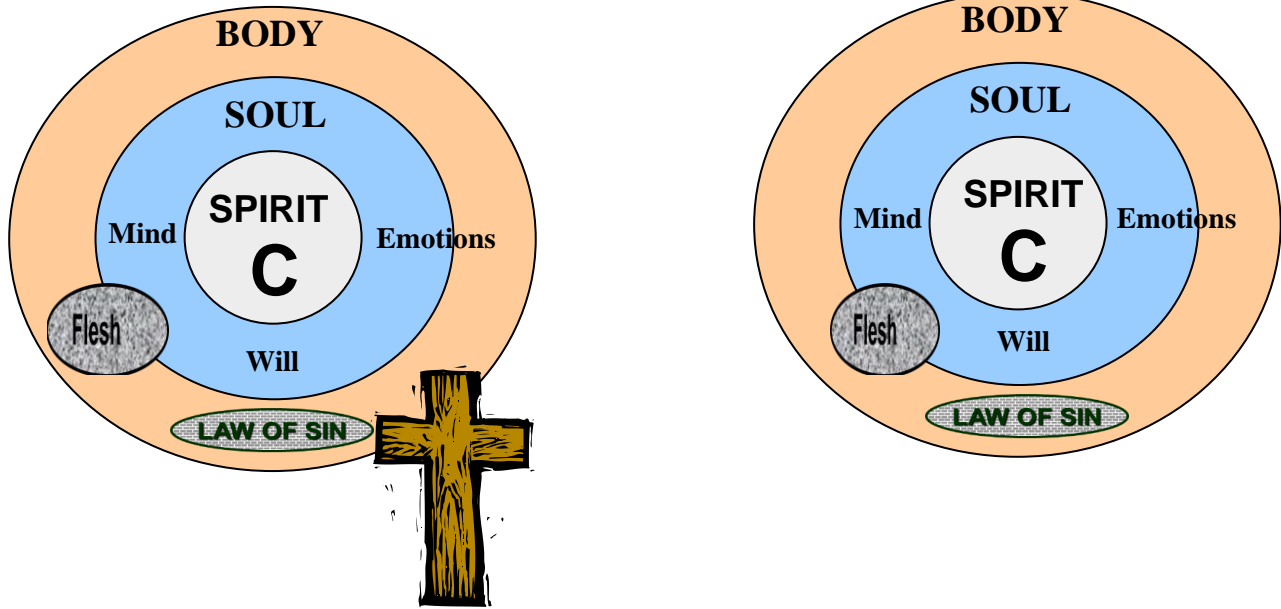
Verse 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,

Verse 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Major Ian Thomas...

“You must act on what you have come to know and believe before it will ever become real in your experience, before you realize by personal experience that Jesus is alive not just in heaven but in you every moment of every day, as the Father was alive in Him. Then your actions will be the activity of faith.”

BELIEVER



Personal Reflection

Explain the contrast between the negative and positive aspects described by Paul in verses 12 and 13?

What does “alive to God” mean?

Where does the “Temptation” to sin (obey the lusts of your mortal body) come from?

Describe your practical experience of reckoning?

Using vs 13, explain how a legalist would understand “do not” as self-effort rather than the empowerment of Grace.

“Through the crucifixion of the old man with Christ the believer has been made dead unto sin, he has been completely freed from sin’s power, he has been taken beyond sin’s grip, the claim of sin upon him has been nullified. This is the flawless provision of God’s Grace but this accomplished fact can only become an actual reality in the believer’s experience as faith lays hold upon it and enables him moment by moment, day by day, though temptation assail him, ‘to reckon ‘ it true. As he reckons, the Holy Spirit makes real; as he continues to reckon, the Holy Spirit continues to make real. Sin need have no more power over the believer than he grants it through unbelief. If he is alive unto sin it will be due largely to the fact that he has failed to reckon himself dead unto sin” Ruth Paxson

Who are you a Slave to?

Verse 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

Verse 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!

1 Corinthians 15:56 (NASB)

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law;

Definition:

“antinomianism” – against the law

THE LAW: Law has no passion, no conscience, no room for love. It merely divides the lawful from the lawless. It is both a spotlight and a mirror, shining a bright light on the errors of others, while simultaneously reflecting the truth about the one who dares to use it.

Definition:

“Slave” – a slave is a person who is wholly subject to the will of another person or has come under a power that controls him.

Verse 16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Matthew 6:24 (AMP)

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.”

Personal Reflection

What is the significance of “knowing”?

Give a personal illustration of your experience of living by expectations (law)?

How does the statement, “a Christian is free to sin because he is not under the law but under Grace”, violate God’s very character?

Explain why our sinning is not a reflection of the freedom we have in Christ?

The message of Grace (our spiritual exchange) is frequently interpreted as “let go and let God” promoting a lifestyle of passivity. True or false, explain

The Slave of Christ

Verse 17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,

Verse 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Verse 19 I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.

Verse 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

Personal Reflection

Explain how seemingly little sins can slowly erode our walk?

In what way is the righteousness of 6:18 different than 5:1?

Circle T (true) or F (false) for each of the following statements.

- T F 1. Sin can reign in the life of a Christian.
- T F 2. Sin must reign in the life a Christian.
- T F 3. The Christian may use his body as an instrument of righteousness.
- T F 4. The Christian must use his body as an instrument of righteousness.
- T F 5. Sin is to be expected as normal for Christians.
- T F 6. Righteousness is the normal life for Christians.

Death/Life – The Contrast

Verse 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

Verse 22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

Verse 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Personal Reflection

Circle T (true) or F (false) for each of the following statements.

- T F 1. We are free from law so we can live any way we want.
- T F 2. No person is a slave.
- T F 3. We are free to offer our bodies to sin.
- T F 4. We are free to offer our bodies to righteousness.
- T F 5. There are no benefits to slavery.
- T F 6. Sin pays accurate wages.
- T F 7. God gives eternal life as a gift

Is verse 23 speaking about an unbeliever? Explain.

Explain the practical application of “to know”, “to count”, “to offer”, and “to obey”?
Is it a question of blind faith?

List some of the wages sin paid in your life?

1.

2.

3.

We have two _____ -- _____ or _____

We are two _____ -- _____ or _____

We perform two _____ -- _____ or _____

We experience two _____ -- _____ or _____

When you choose to sin, “shall we go on sinning” the question asked by Paul in Chapter six, what are the results?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Explain how an unrepentant lifestyle of sinning always leads to death regardless of the outward appearances.

What are the benefits of being a slave to God? The benefits of Grace?

Romans Seven

The Exchanged Life – *The Conflict*

Chapter 7 is a crucial chapter in understanding a key part of Christian doctrine; specifically, the believer's relationship with the Law. Theologians have divided the Law into moral, civil and ceremonial. There is nothing wrong with dividing the Law into groups to aid in our understanding as long as we never forget that God doesn't make these divisions. God never refers to a ceremonial or civil or moral law – only the Law. In Romans 7, Paul is talking about the Law of God. It is a given that all mankind lives by "law" either the external written code (the Ten Commandments) as given under the old Covenant to the Jews or by an internal moral law as do the Gentiles.

The Law given under the old Covenant, is a revelation of God's character. Under the New Covenant, Jesus, in His humanity, was the complete manifestation of God's character during His sojourn on earth, in that manner Jesus fulfilled all the righteous requirements of the Law.

But in Exodus the Law (the Ten Commandments) was exalted by the Jews to a place where it became the way to earn righteousness (right standing with God). Tragically this deception still infects Christianity today. The purpose and intent of the Law was to reveal God's character to sinful mankind and in that manner expose man's sinfulness which would lead man to God for salvation.

The main point of chapter 7 is to explain the believer's relationship to the Law. For the believer it is crucial to understand this relationship for to misuse the Law produces the devastating effects of conflict between the new man and the Law of Sin and Death. The life and death contrast that Paul began in Romans 5, is illuminated more fully in chapter 6 which concluded with a profound contrast between life and death in verse 23, a contrast that is now continued in chapter 7.

Now in chapter 7 Paul will clearly explain that the Law is the underlying motivation for the Law of Sin which pays the wages of death. However, Romans 7 is better known for something else – the struggle Paul describes in verses 14-25. This has become the main focus of many studies that raise distracting questions such as – was Paul talking about a believer or a non-believer? Was it his experience or an illustration? all of which can be deviations from the main point, *a believer's relationship to the Law*. Finally, after describing the dire consequences of living by

the Law which has empowered the Law of Sin, Paul reveals Jesus as the only source of Victory.

“The trouble in Romans 7 is that man in the flesh tried to do something for God. As soon as you try to please God in that way, then you place yourself under law, and the experience of Romans 7 begins to be yours.” Watchman Nee, The Normal Christian Life

Synopsis of Romans 7

Romans 7:1-6 – _____ is set free from the law at salvation – an overview statement for the rest of the chapter. Paul uses an allegory to illustrate how God has set the Christian free from the law and explains how we are now to live in the Spirit.

“If we are not fully emancipated from the law, we can never know full emancipation from sin!”
Watchman Nee, The Normal Christian Life

Romans 7:7-12 – Paul answers the questions that plague a _____
What is the purpose of the law? Why does trying to live by the law produce so much conflict for the Christian? Is the law therefore bad and should be discounted?

“Some good men who in grievous error would impose the law as a rule of life for the Christian mean very well by it but the whole principle is false because the law, instead of being a rule of life, is necessarily a rule of death to one who has sin in his nature. Far from a delivering power, it can only condemn such; far from being a means of holiness, it is, in fact, the strength of sin.”
William Kelly, The Holy Spirit pg. 197.

Romans 7:13-8:4 – a _____ victory through a further exposition of verses 7-12, by identifying the source of the battle that rages within the believer, the experience of defeat and the experience of victory in Christ.

“The believer will remain in bondage as long as he does not know that through the cross he has been delivered from the reign of the old man, the law, the world and the enemy.” Pg. 151

“If the Christian is under the law as a “rule of life”, he is laboring in a doleful, gray, alien land of self-righteousness—he struggles to produce. The believer who learns to walk in the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has the joy of the Lord for his strength—he rests to receive.” Pg. 155

“Here again we must be reminded that the power for deliverance from the law does not reside in the fact that we have died to it, but in our relationship to the risen Liberator. Unless we clearly reckon on our having died to the principle of law, we are constantly under the pallor of failing to meet our spiritual obligations. On the other hand, when we rest in our risen Lord we are more aware of His sufficiency than we are of the claims of law on us.”

Miles J. Stanford, *The Green Letters*, pg. 209

Personal Reflection

To fully understand the importance of why Paul wrote chapter 7 we need to look back at what Paul has said previously about the law in his letter to the Romans.

Using Romans 2:12-29 explain how the law condemns those who attempt to keep it for righteousness?

1.

2.

3

4.

5.

Paul's object in Romans 7 is to destroy the false belief that a Christian can become righteous by keeping the law and in that process Paul reveals the true purpose for the law.

Identify the four main purposes for the law.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

The Allegory

Chapter 7

Verse 1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?

Verse 2 For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

Verse 3 So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

Verse 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

“It follows that shrinking from the way of the Cross, and our fainting on that way, even when we have begun to tread it, arises from our ignorance of the blessedness to which the pathway leads. The most joyous moment in the life of the bride ought to be the moment when she loses her own name and self-dependence at the marriage-altar. Taking her husband’s name instead of her own, she loses her life in his. She is married to another and in this union has a new source of life. Likewise the most blissful moment of our life ought to be that in which we, by the work of the Cross, have renounced our right to self-ownership, and have reckoned ourselves dead to self, to sin and to the world, but gloriously alive unto Him.”

DeVern Fromke, The Ultimate Intension, pg. 69

Released

Verse 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

Verse 6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

Personal reflection

1. Give two examples from the New Testament that you understand to be rules for Godly living.
2. Describe the laws that govern your religious activity.
3. List the expectations you believe you have for yourself.
4. List the expectations that you believe God has of you.
5. Would you say that you are a legalist? YES OR NO

Look back to Romans 3:19-21 and pick out the essentials that apply to this study.

1.

2.

3.

In what way does Romans 4:13-16 confirm that keeping the law cannot produce salvation and righteousness?

The Sting

1 Corinthians 15:56 (AMP)

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin [by which it brings death] is the law;

Verse 7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

Verse 8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

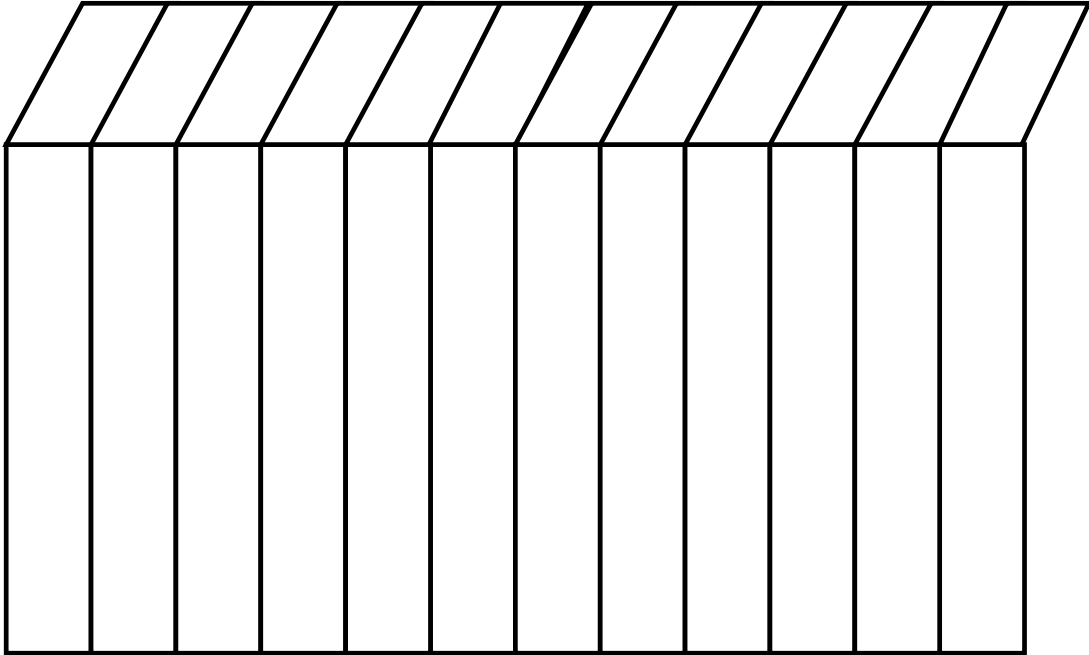
Verse 9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died;

“Death is the spiritual destitution and impoverishment which comes as an ingredient of divine discipline upon the sinning Christian. This is also the meaning for pre-Christian Paul’s experience of death and spiritual depression as a result of his attempts to find life by means of law. (Romans 7:9-11) “Life” here, as in all of Romans, is abundant life, and not regeneration or heaven”. *Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 366*

Verse 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;

Verse 11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

EXPECTATIONS FOR ACCEPTANCE



Personal reflection

How come living by law appears to work for some?

Verse 12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

Verse 13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

THE LAW

Used wrongfully, the Law has no passion, no conscience, no room for love.

It merely divides the lawful from the lawless.

It is both a spotlight and a mirror, shining a bright light on the errors of others, while simultaneously reflecting the truth about the one who dares to use it.

Personal Reflection

What is the underlying problem that the law exposes in Romans 5:13-14?

Explain from Romans 5:20-21 how keeping the law has exactly the opposite result to what the legalist hopes for?

Explain how Romans 6:14 conclusively deals with the question Paul raises in Romans 6:1, “Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase”?

What was the motivation for Paul choosing to use Ex.20:17 to illustrate the effect of the law in his life?

Share your personal story of living on the treadmill of performance for acceptance?

“According to this passage, sin’s great power is that it deceives us. We think we have life under control, but we are fooled. Sin is simply waiting for the right occasion when—like a powerful, idling engine—it roars into life and takes over at the touch of the accelerator of the law...and we find ourselves helplessly under its control. The law is designed to expose that sin, so we begin to understand this evil force we have inherited. The law shows up sin for what it is, something exceedingly powerful and dangerous, something stronger than our will power that causes us to do things we resolved not to do.” From Guilt to Glory Vol. 1. Ray C. Stedman pg. 230

The Miserable Christian Life

Verse 14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.

Verse 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.

Verse 16 But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good.

Verse 17 So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

“Paul in some sense understands that the true Paul, the real Paul, “I myself,” does not serve sin. If when he sins, the true Paul, the “inner man”, the new creation in Christ, is not the one doing it, then who, we might ask, is doing it? The answer is, of course, the whole person is doing the sin and is responsible for it. However, the source of that sin is in the “flesh” and is not the new creation in Christ, the regenerate new nature. The first step toward victory over sin is to be absolutely convinced as Paul and John are, that it is completely foreign to our true new identity in Christ.” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 169

Personal Reflection

Describe the personal revelations Paul shares in vs. 14-17?

Vs. 14

Vs. 15

Vs. 16

Vs. 17

Is the Christian life simply deciding between right and wrong? Explain your answer.

In what way have you been deceived by the following statement: I can live the Christian life, just tell me what to do?

When you sin who do you identify as the enemy?

Our soul has an enemy, who or what is the enemy?

The Struggle Within

Verse 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

Verse 19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want.

Verse 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

Verse 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

“What Paul suggests here is that the redeemed spirit never wants to do what God has prohibited. It agrees with the law that it is good. And yet there is an alien power, a force that he calls sin, a great beast lying dormant within his soul and body. When it is touched by the commandment of the law, it springs to life, and so Paul does what he does not want to do.”

Ray C. Stedman, Guilt to Glory Vol1, pg. 233

Definition:

The Law of Sin: a principle of evil present in me, but not me, a principle or source of action or an inward element producing acts.

Some differences between sin, the devil and the world:

"Sin" is a _____ not the action of _____.

It is not an _____ (a living being) but a _____ or _____ of operation.

Sin is a residue of being in _____ and born of flesh.

The devil will try to _____ you with _____.

The world will try to lead you away from Christ through _____ good advertising.

The Deceptions of The Law of Sin

It feels like _____, pretends to be _____.

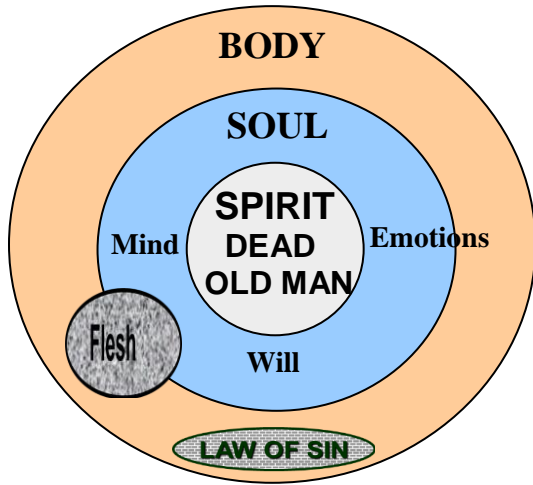
Speaks in _____ person singular.

Uses your minds voice (_____).

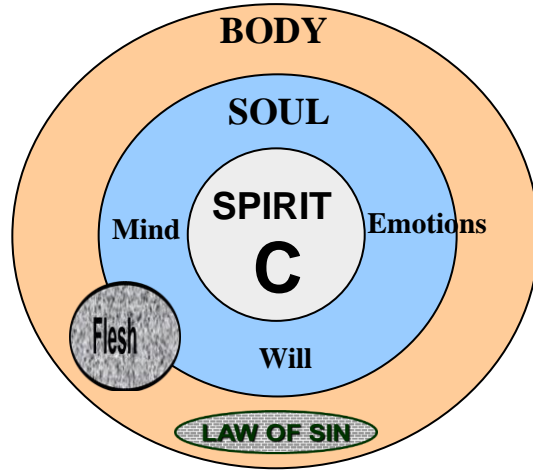
Gains _____ when a person tries to live with a law mentality.

_____ all our hurts, pains, rejections and how we like to deal with them.

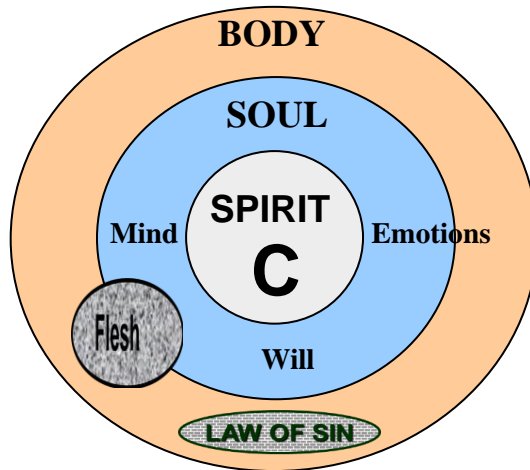
Attempts to put _____ thoughts into our mind, then _____ us for even having the thought.



UNBELIEVER



_____ BELIEVER



_____ BELIEVER

Through _____ death we are set free from the _____ of sin.

Through our _____ death with Christ we are set free from the _____ of sin.

Through our _____ death we are set free from the _____ of sin.

“His meaning is transparent when seen in this light. The sin in the believer’s life is not a product of the new creation! The new creation is sinless and created according to righteousness. Sin is no longer part of our true identity. Lloyd-Jones finds further evidence for the perfect, sinless, new man in Christ in these verses. He notes that Paul will say, “I am not doing this or that, it is this sin that remains in my members that does so. Sin is no longer in me, it is in my members only. This is the most liberating thing you have ever heard. Our old self is gone, we should never think of ourselves in those terms again.”
Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 179

Personal Reflection

Explain how the old master, the law of sin, has deceived you?

Is it a convenient cop out to blame the Law of Sin? Why or why not?

Verse 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man,

1 John 3:9 (AMP)

⁹No one who is born of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, because God’s seed [His principle of life, the essence of His righteous character] remains [permanently] in him [who is born again—who is reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose]; and he [who is born again] cannot habitually [live a life characterized by] sin, because he is born of God and longs to please Him.

Verse 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

Definition:

“antistrateuomai” Greek word translated as “waging war”

Broken

“It is not until we see the debauchery of our attempts at living the Christian life that we are willing to turn to the Father for a solution. “ The Trek of the Century, Don Higgins, pg. 59

Verse 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

“Blessed is the man who comes to the end of himself. Blessed is the man who has arrived at spiritual bankruptcy, who cries, “ what a wretched man I am!” why? Because this is the point—the only point—where God’s help is given. This is what we need to learn. If we think we have something in ourselves that can work out our problems, if we think our wills are strong enough, our desires motivated enough, that we can control evil in our lives by simply determining to do so, then we have not yet come to the end of ourselves. And the Spirit of God simply folds his arms and lets us go ahead and try on that basis. We fail, and fail miserably—until, at last, out of our failures we cry, “o wretched man that I am!” Sin has deceived us and the law, our friend, has come in and exposed sin for what it is. When we see how wretched it make us, then we are ready for the answer, which comes immediately:”

Ray C. Stedman, From Guilt to Glory Vol 1, pg. 235

Victory

Verse 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

“To be “in Christ” also means we are united to Christ in all of the victory that He achieved in His redemptive work. At the moment of conversion, God puts the believer into all the victory Christ achieved in His incarnation. One of the most astounding truths about the redemptive work of Christ is that in the Person of Christ, God Himself became a human being. The humanity of Christ remains one of the great wonders of eternity. It was on His incarnate form, as one of us, that our Lord Jesus Christ achieved our redemption and totally defeated the kingdom of darkness. (Hebrews 2:14-15).” Mark I. Bubeck, Overcoming the Adversary, pg. 39

Personal Reflection

Count in chapter 7 how many times the Holy Spirit was mentioned?

Count in chapter 7 how many times the first person pronoun was used?

List four lies from chapter 7 that are used by sin working through your flesh to trap you into a life of legalism and despair?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who is ultimately responsible for your actions of sinning?

Explain how misunderstanding the law can cause a Christian to attempt living by the following formula, *More right behavior + less wrong behavior = Godliness.*

What two truths from God's word will yield practical Godliness?

_____ + _____ = *Practical Godliness*

Describe your personal journey of surrender?

How can the "shall nots" of God's law become His manifest promises?

"It is a fact that we see what we look at, and cannot see what we look away from; and we cannot look unto Jesus while we are looking at ourselves. The power for victory and the power for endurance are to come from looking unto Jesus and considering Him, not from looking unto, or considering ourselves, or circumstances, or our sins or our temptations."

Hannah Whitall Smith, God of all Comfort pg. 139

Romans Eight

The Exchanged Life – *The Victory*

Paul has shared his experience of being the wretched man at the end of Romans seven and now will underline the amazing truth of the internal miracle that has infused a new quality of life in the inner most being of the Christian. This new life — eternal life — is described as “Christ in us” and is the portion of every Christian. This Life Victorious is based on the perfection of Christ’s life, His substitutionary death and resurrection through which, by the Father’s power, Christ’s perfect righteousness became the spiritual reality of regeneration for the believer. The miracle of Grace is that we are now declared “Alive to God” to which the Spirit of God responds by manifesting in us a vital Christian life characterized by “life and peace”.

Romans eight is a magnificent presentation of how a Christian, led by the Spirit of God, will experience the marvelous spiritual exchange described in Romans 6. This is the Victorious Christian life that every Christian is born again to know for they share the Life of the One who is Victorious. The struggle within, as described by Paul in Romans 7, is an essential experience for the Christian before there will be a willingness to embrace the Victory of Romans 8.

Chapter 8 illuminates the stark contrast between two kinds of Christians, one who by faith chooses to walk in the spirit and experiences “life and peace” with the Christian who chooses, by deception, to walk after his flesh and experiences the “wages of death” described in Romans 6:23. The Love of God for His children is the foundation that makes Romans 8 shine like a bright jewel in the treasure chest of God’s Word. His Love endows us with an eternal assurance from which springs hope eternal all encompassed by a supernatural goal and purpose unequalled in the suffering of our humanity.

Chapter 8

Freed

Verse 1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Verse 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

James 1:15 (AMP)

¹⁵ Then when the illicit desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin has run its course, it gives birth to death.

*“By the miracle of regeneration God has so inwardly changed us that the cry, “O wretched man,” is drowned out by the liberating wonder of the truth of Romans 8:2: “The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.” Life for us is no longer defined by our “fleshly minds”! We are no longer “in the flesh,” but “in the spirit [or Spirit].” ... God’s enabling power is such that “the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.” We already “have the Son.” To walk as Jesus walked is not a fantasy!” David Needham, *Alive for the First Time* pg145-146*

“There is actually a dual application in the truth of Romans 8:1 and 2. Concerning the future, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has freed us from the eternal condemnation of the law of sin and death. As to the present, the Holy Spirit ministers the life of the Lord Jesus within for our daily walk, progressively freeing us from the power of sin and the deathly influence it spawns. We are saved from condemnation of sin because of His reconciliation; we are delivered from the power of sin because of His life.”

*Miles J. Stanford, *The Complete Green Letters* pg. 212*

Personal Reflection

Since we are set free, then why does it seem so logical to our humanity to condemn ourselves?

Using Deuteronomy 6: 24-25 explain how the “virus” that infects all of mankind makes it seem so easy to feel condemned?

John Best,

“The accusation within us from the power of sin is the specific ‘condemnation’ that we are freed from ‘in Christ Jesus.’ ”

Condemned

Verse 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Verse 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Galatians 2:19 (AMPC)

¹⁹ For I through the Law [under the operation of the curse of the Law] have [in Christ’s death for me] myself died to the Law and all the Law’s demands upon me, so that I may [henceforth] live to and for God.

Personal Reflection

Explain the various usage of the word “ Law” in:

Vs. 2

Vs. 3

Vs. 4

What does “the righteous requirement of the law” mean?

Explain how you can meet the requirement?

What does it mean that Jesus came “in sinful flesh”?

John Best

“The requirement of the Law’ is the one thing that fulfills the LAW:

Love produced within us by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit produces from within what the external code could never do!”

Mindset

Definition:

“Mindset” is a noun that is a set of beliefs or a way of thinking that determines one’s behavior, outlook and mental attitude.

Verse 5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Vs 5 ... “while all Christians are spiritually alive by the Spirit, not all Christians necessarily walk that way. pg. 363 A man cannot be led into sanctification unless he allows himself to be, that is, unless he walks by the Spirit.” Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 371

Verse 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

Definition:

Greek word “metanoeo” means “repent” to undergo a change in frame of mind and feeling, to make a change of principle and practice, to reform.

“Death is the spiritual destitution and impoverishment which comes as an ingredient of divine discipline upon the sinning Christian. This is the sense in v.6 where it is the opposite of “life and peace.” “Life” here, as in all of Romans, is abundant life, and not regeneration or heaven. “Life” (Gk. Zoe) is often used of an abundant quality of life beyond regeneration ... The “reign in life” of the believer (Romans 5:17) is called “much more” than the reign of death. Therefore, not just a counterbalance to death is meant, i.e., regeneration. But an abundant life, a vibrant experience with Christ it is “newness of Life” (Romans 6:4)
Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pgs. 366, 362-363

Personal Reflection

Count how many times the “Spirit” is mentioned in chapter 8 _____?

What makes the Holy Spirit so necessary for our experience of Victory?

SINCE we are led by the Holy Spirit having been released from the law through Christ what now happens to our sinning?

Explain from vs. 1-6 three practical truths that create a heavenly mindset?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is a practical expression of your mindset that can influence others to walk in Victory?

Describe the mindset that deals with the temptation to “covet” R.7:7?

“The external moral law of God in that it is based on the eternal holy character of God, the eternal moral law is always in effect. Though other laws may change, this moral law never does. For instance, it is always wrong to worship other gods, to steal, to commit adultery and to covet.

This law is as immutable and timeless as God Himself.”

John E. Best, The Good News of the New Covenant pg.18

Hostile

Verse 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

Verse 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

“ This is a very important distinction because our whole life issues from that on which we set our minds, our attitude (another way of describing our mind set) causes the values that we esteem to be translated into how we live. If our mind is set on the Spirit, our lives will have eternal, spiritual significance, if our mind is set on the flesh, and how it can satisfy itself while seeming to conform to the law outwardly, then our lives will be superficial, temporal, “hostile toward God” and full of spiritual impotence. “

John E. Best, God's Spirit In You for Power & Intimacy pg. 105

Alive

Verse 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Verse 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Verse 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

“Until the full work of the cross—our death and resurrection with Christ—becomes a reality to us, we will try to produce something that’s not required of us. Our focus will still be on us, instead of Christ in us. And we will neglect to be involved in the glorious activity of God as he lives out through us for others. We participate in God’s life when we see that we died to ourselves as our point of reference. Christ in us is now our point of reference in all things.”

Dan Stone and Greg Smith, The Rest of the Gospel pg. 53-54

Personal Reflection

What are the four major consequences you experience as a result of setting your mind upon the flesh in vs. 6-8?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What truths about “Life” do you learn from comparing 8:1-2 with 8:10?

Share some of amazing results of walking in the Spirit that you have experienced?

List ten spiritual benefits that are ours in daily living because we have the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ within our mortal bodies?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Obligation

Verse 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

Verse 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

“But can a man who has been made a new creation in Christ Jesus, and who is not in the flesh but in the Spirit—can such a man walk after the flesh? Can such a man set his mind on the things of the flesh? The unhappy truth is that he can and that he does. Perhaps the first step in the process of true Biblical sanctification is the recognition of this terrible fact.”

Donald Grey Barnhouse, Romans Vol. 3 “God’s Heirs” pg. 41

“In order to live abundantly, we must realize that we have no obligation to the sin principle anymore. Furthermore, we must accept our obligation to live according to the Spirit.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings

Verse 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

“The child of God, however is not passive in the hands of the sanctifying Spirit. He is not “moved” but “led.” His own efforts enter into the progress made under the controlling influence of the Spirit. As Warfield put it, he supplies, in fact, the force exerted in attaining the progress while yet the controlling Spirit supplies the entire directing impulse.” pg. 372

“The “sons of God” are properly those who have allowed themselves to be led of the Spirit.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 380

Personal Reflection

How are or have you tried to put to death the deeds of the flesh?

Describe your personal experience of being led by the Spirit?

Can God use “the deeds of our flesh” for His purposes? Explain

Compare Romans 8:13 with Romans 6:13?

“Abba! Father!”

Verse 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

Adoption

“There is nothing that the nearness of God will not cure. Fear simply does not suit you!”

Mike Wells

Verse 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

“A Divine witness is given to the believer which is infinitely more convincing than a mental conviction based upon mental reasoning or than conclusions based upon evidences, however sound and true. For the Divine witness makes the unseen Lord a living, present reality to the believer—a Person known and obeyed and loved, as truly as the disciples knew and loved Him when He walked the earth as Man.” Jesse Penn-Lewis, Power for Service, pg.13

Co-Heirs; The Reality

Verse 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

“Thus, all Christians are “born ones”, children of God. The Spirit of God testifies to the heart of all that they are His offspring. But not all Christians are sons in the sense of those who go on to maturity, who maintain relationship with Christ, who suffer with Him, and as a result will one day share in His inheritance-kingdom, being honored with Him there.” Pg. 379.

“In Romans 8:17 Paul makes explicit that this reign in life is contingent upon our sharing with Christ in His sufferings. It was not germane to his point of stressing the “much more” made available to the believer through the death of Christ in Romans 5:17.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 416

Verse 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

“Each crucible experience is designed to bring forth in us a fuller participation in heirship. These are like a series of crises through which the Holy Spirit leads the hungry heart in its quest for truth. Experiences are like open doors through which we pass. No experience has in itself finality. Thus, while we are potential heirs by birth, there is much the Father cannot share until we are mature enough to appropriate. He waits to share the fuller measure of His light and love, but first our small capacity must be enlarged. He longs to share His peace and joy, but certain lessons must first be learned in His schoolroom. He waits to impart His wisdom and knowledge but only experience can make us partakers of this.” DeVern Fromke, Ultimate Intension, pg. 61-62

Personal Reflection

How has the spirit of slavery trapped you through your fear in unbelief?

Describe how the following scriptures can set you free from fear?

Romans 8:15-16

Isaiah 43:1

2 Timothy 1:7

From the following scriptures identify a person's response to the Spirit and their spiritual condition?

Acts 7:51

Eph. 4:30

1 Thess. 5:19 (NKJV)

Compare Romans 5:3 with Romans 8:17-18?

Identify the benefits of being a co-heir with Christ?

Suffering is rejected by most of Christianity today, especially in North America, using 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 explain the reason for this situation and what are the consequences of this rejection.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (AMP)

¹⁷ For our momentary, light distress [this passing trouble] is producing for us an eternal weight of glory [a fullness] beyond all measure [surpassing all comparisons, a transcendent splendor and an endless blessedness]! ¹⁸ So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are temporal [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable.

“Nothing can set us apart for God, nothing can make us holy, except as the cross is working in us, because the cross alone can keep the hindrances to holiness in the place of death.”

G Watt, as quoted in The Green Letters, Miles Stanford, pg. 53

Anticipation

Verse 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.

Romans 8:19-21 J.B. Phillips

¹⁸⁻²¹ In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited—yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God!

Verse 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

Verse 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

“The ‘revealing of the sons of God’ is then the making known to all creation who these faithful Christians are. No inanimate thing can share in the reign of Christ’s servants. But the creation will share in an aspect of the future glory common to all the children of God, physical transformation. For this reason Paul changes from “sons” (v.19) to “children” of God in v.21 All children of God will be transformed, but only the “sons’ will rule with Christ.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 380

Verse 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

Verse 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

*If tribulation is a necessary element in redemption, we must anticipate that it will never cease till
God sees the world to be either redeemed or no further redeemable.*

C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain, pg. 91

Personal Reflection

Describe the work of the Holy Spirit in the following vs.

1. Vs. 14,16
2. Vs. 15
3. Vs. 19
4. Vs. 23

Using 1 Peter 4:1-2 share how suffering is one of the main factors of spiritual growth.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What would it mean for creation to experience the same freedom we have in Christ?

“It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to, love, by definition, seeks to enjoy its object.” C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain, pg. 91

Hope

Verse 24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees?

Verse 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Personal Reflection

How many times in Romans 5-8 has Paul used the word hope?

What is the root cause of the stress in this world?

Explain how Eph. 2:19 and John 17:14-16 provides you with hope?

How does “Christian hope” spring eternal in the midst of suffering?

Explain the spiritual relationship of hope, suffering, God's promises and His love?

Empowered by Weakness

'There is only one true and adequate motivating power for living the Christian life, and that is the very life of the Lord Jesus—ministered within by the Spirit of Life Himself. This is not a motivation of love, but the empowerment of life. 'For me to live is Christ' (Phil. 1:21). It is not, "Only what is done for Christ will last," but rather, 'Only what is done by Christ will last.'

Miles J. Stanford, The Complete Green Letters, pg. 213

Verse 26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;

Verse 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

"You must fail, power is in weakness, weakness is a magnet to God's power." Mike Wells

Definition:

Greek word "paraclete" (John 14:16-18) is translated as _____

"Para" _____, "Kaleo" _____

Greek word "sunantilambanotai" is translated as _____

"Sun" _____, "anti" _____, "lumbano"

Meaning _____

Word analysis of "helps":

1.

2.

3.

He is _____ there and _____ working.

Personal Reflection

List the ways the Holy Spirit is empowered by our weakness?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What meaning does the word "help" convey in today's society?

"Prayer is not some exercise to influence God and get our agenda accepted. It is on the contrary, a submission to be influenced by God." Alex Mathew

Goal and Purpose

Verse 28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

“What is good in any painful experience is, for the sufferer, his submission to the will of God, and, for the spectators, the compassion aroused and the acts of mercy to which it leads.”

C. S. Lewis, The Problem of Suffering pg. 88

Verse 29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMP)

¹⁷ Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

Nothing is wasted in God's economy!

2 Corinthians 3:18 PHILLIPS

¹⁸ But all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured by the Spirit of the Lord in ever-increasing splendour into his own image.

Personal Reflection

How can suffering undermine our experience of God's love?

In what way does our union with Christ free us to see "all things" through His eyes?

In what way has knowing God's goal and purpose for your life produced hope?

“Once we know His eternal plan and purpose for us, plus His method of preparation and process to that end, there is confidence and rest.”

Miles J. Stanford “The Green Letters” pg. 18

Eternally Secure

Verse 30 and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

God’s Golden Chain

Foreknew

Predestined

Called

Justified

Glorified

Romans 11:36^(AMPC)

³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it).

Verse 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

Verse 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Verse 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;

Verse 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

“Our justification comes from the imputed righteousness of Christ and is legally ours. It is not a subject of merit, and its loss cannot be the subject of demerit. Like a human father, God can and does correct His earthly sons, but they always remain sons.”

Joseph Dillow, Reign of the Servant Kings pg. 501

Verse 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Hebrews 13:5b (AMPC)

“for He [God]Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]”

Personal Reflection

From vs. 32-34 identify four reasons why the believer will never be found guilty?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Describe how the love and presence of Christ provides you with hope in the midst of each of the seven possibilities presented by Paul?

What makes difficult circumstances cause us to question God's love?

Many believers struggle with assurance, how would you use the questions and answers Paul employs in vs. 31-35 to provide assurance to the troubled soul who lacks assurance?

Vs. 31

Vs. 33

Vs. 34

Vs. 35

Verse 36 Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

"Daily the vessel of clay is made to know its weakness, so that daily the life of Jesus which conquers death might show forth its power." Jesse Penn-Lewis, Power for Service pg. 35

"We are daily delivered unto death "for Jesus' sake" (2 Cor. 4:11) Previously we saw everything for our sake. But now as we move along this highway, it means interpreting this working of death as "for Jesus' sake". What a privilege and calling is ours! God has chosen and designed us to be transparent vessels to display heaven's treasure—vessels through which He might continually reveal to others the dying of the Lord Jesus. What seems to be "our dying" is really the "dying of the Lord Jesus" in us. This "working of death" becomes the means of life to all to whom it is revealed." DeVern Fromke, The Ultimate Intention pg. 90

2 Corinthians 4:11-13 (PHILLIPS)

7-13 This priceless treasure we hold, so to speak, in a common earthenware jar—to show that the splendid power of it belongs to God and not to us. We are handicapped on all sides, but we are never frustrated; we are puzzled, but never in despair. We are persecuted, but we never have to stand alone: we may be knocked down but we are never knocked out! Every day we experience something of the death of the Lord Jesus, so that we may also know the power of the life of Jesus in these bodies of ours. Yes, we who are living are always being exposed to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be plainly seen in our mortal lives. We are always facing death, but this means that you know more and more of life. Our faith is like that mentioned in the scripture: 'I believed and therefore I spoke'.

Verse 37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.

“Love functions according to its nature, not according to the quality of the object.”

Miles J. Stanford

Verse 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

Verse 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Personal Reflection

Paul uses five couplets to explain his personal authentication of God’s love, using the same couplets describe how they authenticate God’s love in your life?

Ruth Harms Calkin

“God, I may fall flat on my face; I may fail until I feel old and beaten and done in. Yet Your love for me is changeless. All the music may go out of my life, my private world may shatter to dust. Even so, You will hold me in the palm of Your steady hand. No turn in the affairs of my fractured life can baffle You. Satan with all his braggadocio cannot distract You. Nothing can separate me from Your measureless love—pain can’t, disappointment can’t, anguish can’t. Yesterday, today tomorrow can’t. The loss of my dearest love can’t. Death can’t. Life can’t. Riots, war, insanity, un-identity, hunger, neurosis, disease—none of these nor all of them heaped together can budge the fact that I am dearly loved, completely forgiven, and forever free through Jesus Christ Your beloved Son.”