

Romans 8

The Character and Certainty of the justified believer's Salvation.

1. For those "in Christ" that is, united to Him, condemnation for our sins has been dealt with once and for all in the substitutionary death of our Saviour.

2. There are two laws or principles here.

The law of sin and the consequent death or separation from God no longer applies to the believer, it is cancelled out by the law of the Spirit of life, that is, all who put their trust in the Saviour the Holy Spirit has given them new life.

3-4. The law could not save us because of our sinful inability to perfectly fulfill it.

God, therefore saves us by the gospel. He sent His Son. He condemned our sin in His body on the cross. He satisfied for us what the law required by His death for us, and because of the Holy Spirit, we are no longer dominated by our old way of life.

5. There are therefore two mind sets.

The unbeliever is dominated by sinful, selfish sensual desires. "How can I get my own way, achieve my goals, please myself?"

The believer is dominated by spiritual, godly desires. "How can I serve and please God? How can I be a blessing to others?"

6. There are two types of people.

Unbelievers spiritually dead.

Believers spiritually alive and at peace within, a sense of well being.

7-8. The unbeliever is naturally hostile to God, he is in rebellion and he cannot change nor win God's favour.

9. Believers are spiritual because the Holy Spirit lives in them. All who belong to Christ have His Spirit.

10. As we have seen in Romans 7, believers are not yet fully renewed. We are alive in spirit because of what Christ has achieved for us but our body is still mortal, that is doomed to die and sin is still present to hinder us.

11. The same Holy Spirit who raised Christ and lives within us will, on the last day, complete the renewal by raising our bodies.

12-14. Now that we are saved we have an obligation to serve the Lord, to fight against sin. We have no obligation to serve sin for that is the way to death. Rather we have an obligation to live by the Spirit and thus overcome sinful desires. This is the way to life!

All believers are sons of God and the Holy Spirit leads them in the new life.

15-16. Receiving the Holy Spirit does not make us slaves forcing us to adapt a way of life because of the fear of rejection. Rather the presence of the Spirit assures us that we are sons of God and we naturally

seek to please our Father. The Holy Spirit convinces and comforts us with the assurance that we really are God's children.

17. Children are heirs to all that is their fathers.

Spiritually we are heirs to all that God has promised in the future.

We are co heirs with Christ. We will share His glory.

In the meantime belonging to Him will mean suffering with Him who was despised and rejected.

18. Any suffering we may be called upon to endure is nothing compared to the glory we will share.

19. Not only are believers anticipating a great future promised by God but the whole creation is eagerly awaiting what has been promised.

20. Creation has suffered under the curse that came about as a result of Adam's sin.

21. Creation then is to share in the great renewal when believers enter into their glorious inheritance.

22. In the meantime a suffering creation groans, longing for what is anticipated to arrive.

23. We believers, aware that we are only partially renewed share that groan and longing.

We have the Holy Spirit, the first part of the promise, the second part we eagerly await, our adoption into the glory as sons of God and the redemption or resurrection of our bodies.

24-25. This is the hope part of our salvation.

Hope is desire and confident expectation of a future event. This then is the future aspect of our salvation for which we wait patiently.

26-27. In our present struggle with sin, we are weak and need help.

The Holy Spirit is our ever present Helper, Strengthener. He helps us in prayer when we are confused; uncertain of God's will in a particular situation. We should take the matter to our Father, tell Him of our dilemma and leave it in His hands.

The Holy Spirit knows our hearts, our needs and the will of God. He prays for us and within us with groans beyond words.

Thus far regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit: -

(1) He sets us free from the law of sin and death.

(2) All true Christians live in accord with the Spirit's desires.

(3) The Holy Spirit lives in believers. Every person who comes to faith in Christ receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(4) The Holy Spirit will raise the bodies of believers in the resurrection.

(5) Through the Holy Spirit believers make war on sinful habits and kill them off.

(6) The Holy Spirit assures believers that they are God's children.

(7) The Holy Spirit leads believers to groan with anticipation.

(8) The Holy Spirit helps us to pray for God's will to be done.

28. The conclusion from what has come before v 1-27. "All will be well!"

We know all things work for good. Including evil and sufferings being overruled for good.

"To those who love God" We love Him because He first loved us and gave His Son to die for us.

"Who have been called according to His purpose." Those chosen and called by God; so awakened by the Holy Spirit that they have become aware of their lost and sinful condition. Hearing the gospel, they received The Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

29. Before they knew Him, He knew them. He also determined that they would be made ultimately like His Son who will be the pre-eminent One.

30. These predestined ones will be brought to that end by these means or stages.

"Called" as above by the gospel.

"Justified". Declared just, found not guilty and possessing Christ's righteousness.

"Glorified". When in transformed bodies we stand in glory. Note that none of those called and justified will fail to reach glory.

31. There is much against us – world, flesh, devil; trials and perplexities but God is for us.

32. He has given us His supreme gift and will give us all that is necessary to bring us safe to glory.

33. All voices raised against us accusing us will be silenced by the Judge who has declared us innocent.

34. The Risen Lord who died for us will speak for us.

35-36. No trial or circumstance is strong enough to separate us from the love of Christ.

37. More than conquerors through Christ. Stronger His love than death or hell.

38. Nothing whatever can separate us.