

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Turn your bibles with me to Romans 8

We are continuing our verse-by-verse study through this amazing letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome and us today about the fundamentals of Christianity.

Answering for us - what is the gospel of grace?

And Paul has taken us on a spiritual journey up a mountain –

We are all sinners – we have all missed the mark.

We are sinners not because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.

We all fall short of the glory of the glory of God – His standard – which is perfection.

And because we are all sinners – we are all condemned.

The openly rebellious individual, the self-righteous individual, the person that places their truth in religion – apart from Christ – condemned.

But God!!!!

He made a way

Not only is He just, He is the justifier –

Jesus is our propitiation.

Our sins were passed to Jesus and nailed to the cross.

On the cross, God's justice was satisfied so that His mercy could flow to every sinner who puts their trust in Jesus.

The just shall live by faith – the theme of this entire book.

Jesus deals with the problem of sin – separated from God, with the penalty of sin – our justification -, and we currently find ourselves in the section of Romans where Paul provides for us how Jesus has given us victory over the power of sin as we lean on the Holy Spirit and He does the work in us to be more like Him - sanctification.

In our text this morning – as we dwell on the mountaintop of Chapter 8 – Paul is going to tell us how we find freedom as we allow the Holy Spirit to do the work in us.

Let's pray...

Read Text -

I want to provide a little background for our text today –

For those of us that were here two weeks ago – you might remember that the Apostle Paul gave us some insight on the internal struggle in his life between the Spirit and the flesh.

The words which we read were a confession of an exhausted believer –

The things I want to do I don't.

The things I don't want to do – I do.

Paul was tired of trying.

And then we get to that key verse 7:24

When Paul gets to the same place that we do sometimes in our own personal struggles – and cries out O wretched man that I am!!!!

I don't have the strength within myself to overcome this

I try and I try and I try and I failed and failed and failed.

I can't overcome in in my own strength – I am wretched

Remember – Paul's struggle was with legalism.

Paul wrestled with the law requirements in his life

Just like today

For some of us – we may think it is easier to follow a list of do's and don'ts – or we think we have more security in following rules.

But legalism only leads to bondage.

There is bondage when we turn back to the law, there is bondage when we fail to allow the Spirit of God to energize us, to mobilize us and to empower us.

That is why I always pray – let everything we do – may we be led by the Spirit and not the flesh.

Because the flesh is never satisfied

The flesh is always disappointed – it wants more and more and more

I could have done more.

I should have done that.

We start looking back – and it leads to condemnation.

We condemn ourselves because we couldn't follow our own list and then we start to condemn others because they are not following the list that we couldn't keep in the first place.

And so Paul is in this struggle and he cries out

Who will deliver me from this body of death?

So often times – our question during this struggle is,

how am I going to get out of this?

How am I going to overcome?

How am I going to get through this?

How am I going to stop doing this thing I know I shouldn't be doing?

And the scriptures do provide us with a few principles and directions that we can take.

But the real question in our lives is not how – but who?

Who is going to deliver me?

Who is going to change me?

Who is going to lead me?

Who is going to strengthen me?

And Paul answers the question for us – Jesus

Later on, in ch 10 – Paul is going to quote the prophet Joel when he writes -

**[Rom 10:13 NKJV] 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."**

In the Gospel of John – Jesus says -

**[Jhn 6:37 NKJV] 37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."**

Jesus lives in us.

He empowers us from the inside.

It is not by some external method.

It is only by His indwelling Spirit.

It is only by leaning on the Holy Spirit – it is by living a Spirit filled life.

We walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh –

We saw it at the end of our study last week in verse 1 and we see again in our text today in verse 4.

Living a Spirit filled life / walking in the Spirit is not by just going to church.

Or by opening and reading your bible or memorizing entire sections of the bible.

The Spirit filled life is one that is identified by the Spirit, governed by the Spirit, and imparted by the Spirit.

Walking in the Spirit –

And so what Paul tells us is that even a genuine believer – a born again Christian

One who has the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of him or her –

That brother or that sister can still choose to walk in the flesh instead of walking in the Spirit.

They can still choose to lean on their own understanding and own strength (The Romans 7 Christian) instead of leaning on the Holy Spirit (The Romans 8 Christian).

The idea behind our walk is this – what are the principles that govern our lives.

Turn with me to Leviticus 14 -

We see a beautiful picture of this in the book of Leviticus –

Just a reminder – we are going to be going through the book of Leviticus after Romans.

So God is speaking to Moses –

Giving Moses instructions on what to do with the lepers when they are cleansed -

**[Lev 14:13-18 NKJV] 13 "Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering and the burnt offering, in a holy place; for as the sin offering [is] the priest's, so [is] the trespass offering. It [is] most holy. 14 "The priest shall take [some] of the blood of the trespass offering, and the priest shall put [it] on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot. 15 "And the priest shall take [some] of the log of oil, and pour [it] into the palm of his own left hand. 16 "Then the priest shall dip his right finger in the oil that [is] in his left hand, and shall sprinkle some of the oil with his finger seven times before the LORD. 17 "And of the rest of the oil in his hand, the priest shall put [some] on the tip of the right ear of him who is to be cleansed, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the big toe of his right foot, on the blood of the trespass offering. 18 "The rest of the oil that [is] in**

**the priest's hand he shall put on the head of him who is to be cleansed. So the priest shall make atonement for him before the LORD.**

By the way – a little insight.

The person who places their faith in trust in Jesus – we are the lepers here.

And the instructions that God is giving to Moses are –

When the leper is cleansed –

Blood and oil on their right ear, their right thumb, their right toe.

Sounds a little weird to us -

Why?

Because God wants to set apart the totality of who we are.

What we hear.

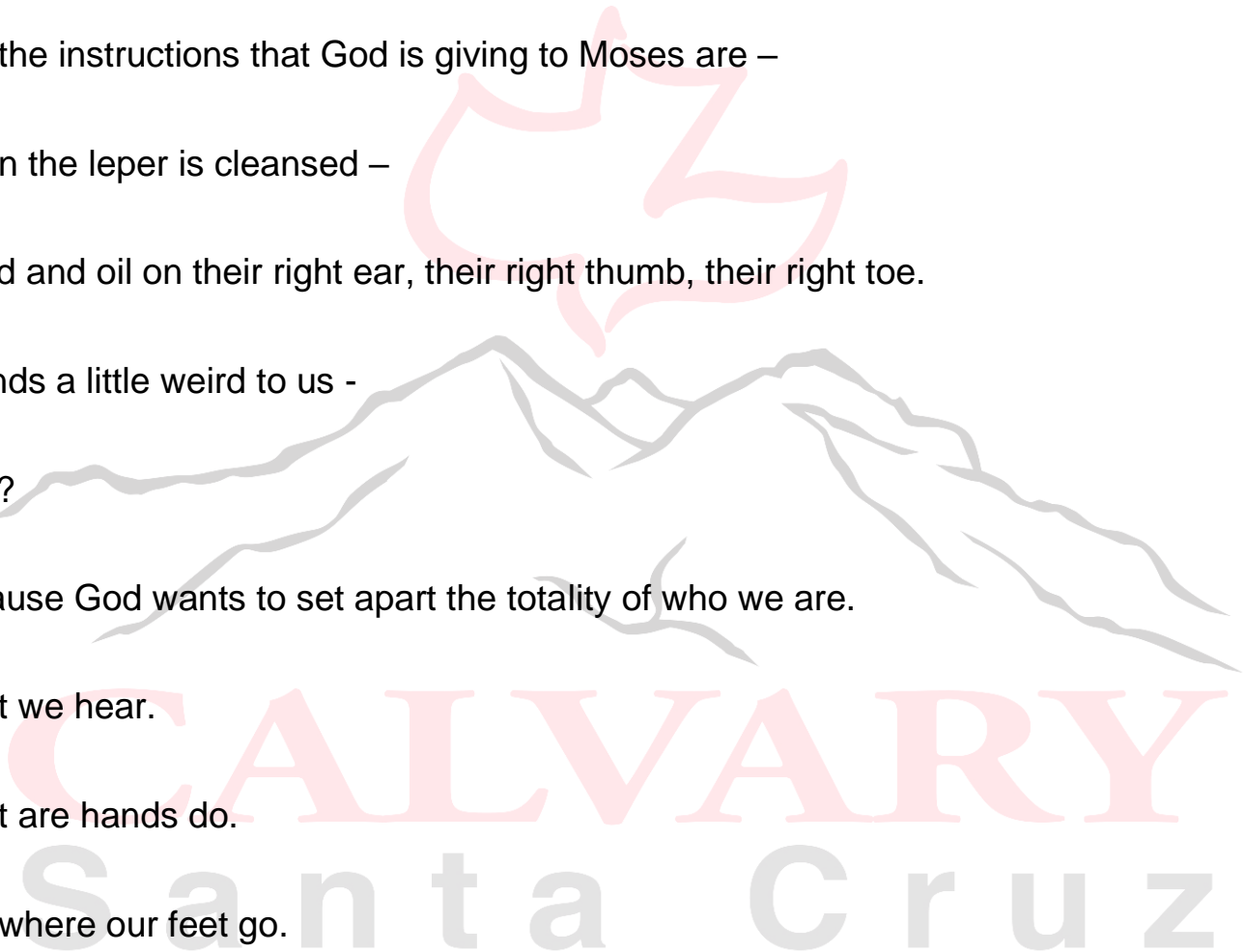
What are hands do.

And where our feet go.

This is exactly what Paul is referring to those who walk according to the Spirit.

You and I get to walk in the Spirit because of what Jesus has done.

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus





But there is so much more....

**[Rom 8:2-4 NKJV] 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.**

This is what Paul is saying here in verse 2 -

Remember, in our last chapter Paul was condemned by the law –

He couldn't keep it. He was tired of trying.

Because the law says – do this or die

And Paul's response and our response is – we can't

So the law says – then you die.

Someone has to die

And every time they would bring an animal to sacrifice it was a constant reminder that there is no remission of sin / there is no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood.

**[Col 2:13-14 NKJV] 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**

Jesus didn't come to destroy the law – He came to fulfill the law.

So here he says that the believer who walks in the Spirit –

That person can no longer be compelled to be condemned by the law because they have become dead to law.

This is the same thing he said in the last chapter -

**[Rom 7:4 NKJV] 4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.**

So in the same way the believer is no longer compelled to be condemned by the law, the believer is also no longer compelled or controlled by sin.

Because we are now under law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

We can be controlled now by the Holy Spirit

He can be the principle by how we live our lives.

He can define us,

He can fill us,

He can guide us,

He can empower us

The key is “He”

I mentioned it the last two weeks – chapter 7 is all about the “I’s and the me’s”

Chapter 8 is all about the Holy Spirit inside of us.

And what did the Holy Spirit come to do?

Set us free!!!

Where does the power come from to live this new life?

Not from the flesh

But from the Spirit of God who gives us life.

As an engineer - I like using the illustration of being on a plane.

I get on a plane at the gate – the plane is not moving because the law of gravity is weighing it down.

The law of sin and death is like the law of gravity – it weighs us down

But once the plane gets on the runway – now you have other laws that supersede the law of gravity.

The law of thrust, the law of lift

Is a plane flying at 35000 feet – is the plane still affected by the law of gravity? Yes

Do believers still sin? Yes

We are still affected by the law of sin and death

But we have another law inside us that supersedes the law of sin and death –

**3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God [did] by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,**

Paul told us in ch 7 –

That the law is holy, just and good.

The law is holy, just and good.

And the reason is because the Giver of the Law is holy, just and good

You see loved ones, the law is not the problem, the law was never the problem.

The problem was you and me.

The law is perfect

We on the other hand are not

We can't keep the law because of our rebellious nature against God – that is what weak to the flesh means.

Paul also told us ch 7 that the law is spiritual – (vs 14) and when we are trying to obey it in the power of our own flesh, we can never accomplish God's standards.

The law could do many things but it couldn't give us the power to please God

The law can't change us

The law can't save us

What the law couldn't do, God did

So God did it by sending His only Son – the incarnation

God became man

God took on a human sinless nature

He took upon Himself the sins of the world.

Paul tells us in 2 Cor 5:21

**[2Co 5:21 NKJV] 21 For He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**

Jesus didn't simply die for our sins

Jesus didn't simply die for what we have done

Jesus died for who we are and what we are when nobody is looking.

I had you make a note of the last part of the verse –

Jesus condemned sin

Did you notice that it doesn't say that Jesus forgave sin

He condemned sin –

Notice the word sin is singular –

Paul is speaking here of our sinful nature / flesh – our the propensity to sin

That was condemned

Our sins are forgiven – the things we do every day - forgiven

Our sinful nature was condemned

Crucified with Him so that we are free to follow the Spirit in total obedience to God

**4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Because the Spirit of God dwells in us and as we lean on Him and His strength and understanding –

Paul is saying that we will live out the righteous requirement of the law –

In Matthew –

The Pharisee comes to Jesus.

**[Mat 22:36-39 NKJV] 36 "Teacher, which [is] the great commandment in the law?"**

**37 Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart,**

**with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 "This is [the] first and great**

**commandment. 39 "And [the] second [is] like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**

Church – this ability only come from the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

My only ability to love God with all that I am

My only ability to love people who are as fallen as I am

Is because of the Spirit of God who dwells in me.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to love Him and love each other – and now all of a sudden, we are able to do what the law could never make us do

It is not something that you and I can generate out of ourselves.

We will only become frustrated if we try – we will revert back to being a Romans 7 Christian.

We lean on Him –

Turn to Gal 5

**[Gal 5:16-18 NKJV] 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

So – we can walk in the Spirit or we can walk in the flesh

We cannot be walking kinda in the Spirit or kinda in the flesh.

That is what the scriptures point to

There is no grey area here

Even as a believer – as someone who has placed his or her trust in Jesus - even though we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us – we can still choose to walk in the principles of our rebellion against God instead of the principles of the Spirit.

And have the weight of condemnation upon our shoulders

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus

I am going to end with this –

Many believers live their lives as if they are barely holding on –

I ask someone – how's your walk.

I am holding on –



And I can tell what they mean – I understand – I know they are being sincere.

But I want to show you an amazing promise that Jesus gives us –

Turn to John 10

**[Jhn 10:27-29 NKJV] 27 "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 "My Father, who has given [them] to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of My Father's hand.**

We live our walk as if we are the ones holding on –

But in reality – Jesus is holding on to us and He is not going to let go.

When we grasp this – wretched man that I am – we simply lean on Him and walk in the Spirit and allow Him to change us and free us.

Amen

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'