

## **Bibles???**

### **Romans 8:5-11**

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

Turn your bibles to the book of Romans - Chapter 8

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

And we currently find ourselves camped out at the spiritual mountaintop of not only the book of Romans but all the New Testament.

About who we are in Christ

About the amazing promises that God has given to those who are in Him.

And to those who walk in the Spirit

Let's pray...

Read Text

**[Rom 8:5-11 NKJV] 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those [who live] according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.**

The scriptures are very clear to draw a sharp contrast between certain things.

For example – you have a believer who by grace through faith, places their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior –

He / she is in Christ

That individual has peace with God.

And then you have the nonbeliever who rejects God's grace –

Who believes that they can be righteous through other means, self-righteousness, religion.

That person rejects God's standard of righteousness and in their own mind – they create their own standard of righteousness – which is – “I just have to be better than that other person or I just have to make sure that the good things I do have to outweigh the bad things I do”

That person is not in Christ – that individual does not have peace with God

Because the righteousness that God requires is the righteousness that God provides –

His Son.

Apart from Christ – we are all condemned.

So everyone is either a believer / nonbeliever.

There is no grey area –

The same things goes for those who choose to walk in the Spirit and those who chose to walk in the flesh.

Remember what chapter 7 was about – that even as a genuine believer (Apostle Paul), even as we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us – we can still choose to walk in the flesh instead of choosing walking in the Spirit.

We can still choose to walk leaning on our own understanding and lean on our own strength instead of leaning on the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to do guide us in all we do.

Paul makes it very clear here that walking in the Spirit and walking in the flesh are mutually exclusive.

We cannot be walking in the flesh and in the Spirit at the same time.

We are either in one or the other

Again – there is no middle ground.

Now – I want you to think about this –

The person who says –

I was driving to church this morning, listening to worship - and this merges into my lane and cuts me off. I had to swerve to avoid him – and I just got all in the flesh and chased

him down and honked at him and lowered my window and yelled at that old man and continued on my way to church.

What about the individual who says – I was having a long day at work and I was really hungry and I went to Burger King and they messed up my order – I asked for extra pickles on my whopper and they gave me no pickles - so I got all in the flesh and started yelling at the person behind the register and making a scene.

Both of the individuals are implying that up to the point where – “they got all in the flesh” – as they put it, they were walking according to the Spirit.

That they had chosen to walk in the Spirit and the circumstances in life immediately transported them from walking in the Spirit to walking in the flesh.

Paul – under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, tells us - There is no way.

Paul tells us that -

Those two individuals were in the flesh all along - it just became clear to them when the opportunity arose to see it for what it was.

Their reaction to the circumstances only revealed to them that they were walking in the flesh.

If they had been in the Spirit, they would not have reacted in the way they did.

This is what Paul is saying here.

Now – let's not lose sight of the context –

Again

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (8:1)

This verse is not here to condemn us or for us to beat ourselves up and question whether we are really a believer or not.

This verse is here for us so that we understand just how much we must lean on the Holy Spirit.

That we can revert back to walking according to the flesh and start leaning on self once again.

Once again, I want to make sure we understand that walking in the flesh doesn't simply manifest itself when we do things that are obviously wrong.

Being in the flesh is simply relating to life the way we did before we came to Christ.

Which is – only concerned with "I – Me – MINE"

You see, when we are in the Spirit, we come at life from a totally different perspective.

No longer is it about self

It is about being content to let God be God

To allow God to do His work in us and through us to accomplish His will.

And so, Paul tells us that we can choose which of these two paths we are going to walk according to by which one we set our minds to.

Whatever we set our minds to – those things will begin to preoccupy our lives.

The things we love, the things we become preoccupied with, the things we become invested in – these things begin to inform our thinking and inform our behavior.

The person who is walking according to the flesh – they get up in the morning and they plan their day according to whatever is going to make (me, myself and I) happy

The person who is walking in the Spirit wakes up and plans their day –

What is God's will for my life today?

How am I going to glorify God today?

Again, this is part of the work that He is doing in us.

It is a process – it doesn't come overnight

**6 For to be carnally minded [is] death, but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.**

I had you make a note of the phrases carnally minded and spiritually minded.

Carnally minded or fleshly minded is anything apart from Christ

As nonbelievers – we were all carnally minded

As believers our driving force can still be the flesh – and notice –

The result is death.

Now, we have to remember that death in the scriptures refers to separation from God

For those apart from Christ – this means eternal separation from God

But for the believer – it means living a defeated Christian life.

A life where there is broken fellowship with God.

It means living a life where we condemn ourselves.

That was the Romans 7 Christian

Spiritually minded means (In Christ)

The believer who is walking in the Spirit.

They experience the opposite of death – they experience life and peace.

No condemnation –

Living the victorious life that God has for us because we are walking in accordance to

His will.

But Paul also adds the following -

**7 Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

The flesh driven mind / the carnal driven mind is against God.

That is what Paul is saying here in verse 7

Christians who live in the flesh,

live by the flesh,

and live for the flesh, are walking contradictions because they CANNOT please God.

Why can't they please God –

Because they are going against the very reason and the purpose of our existence.

And this is the one thing that our society struggles with the most.

God is perfect

God's ways are the right ways

And when somebody is living contrary to God's ways – that very act is enmity with God

The very act is itself rebellion against God

The very act is wickedness



The carnal mind is God's enemy

Because it is not subject to the law of God because it is completely against it.

This is why there is not more miserable place to be than a carnal Christian

Turn with me to Colossians 3

**[Col 3:1-4 NKJV] 1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.**

Paul writes to the church in Corinth – the same thing he is writing to the believers in Rome.

Where is our mindset?

On heavenly things?

On spiritual things?

Or on temporal things?

This is why we are here this morning.

This is why we are partaking in communal worship.

This is why we are going through His word.

This is why we pray with one another

This is why we serve one another.

Because Jesus tells us in Matt 23:11 **[Mat 23:11 NKJV] 11 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.**

You see church – if we are not serving one another and instead our focus is on being served –

We have to question where our mindset is.

On the things above or on temporal things

On Spiritual things or things of the flesh.

We cannot please God in the flesh because Paul has already told us that there is no good thing.

**[Rom 7:18 NKJV] 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but [how] to perform what is good I do not find.**

On the other hand – there are ways to please God –

Paul gives us a hint -

**[1Corinthians 1:21 NKJV] 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

Sharing the good news –

That God would use the foolish things – “you and me”

To present to an unbeliever the possibility that sin can be forgiven and hope can be established and that they can have a right relationship with God –

That please God

**[Heb 11:6 NKJV] 6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [Him], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and [that] He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Faith in Him please God

Faith that whatever God has said He will do will please God – including the work that He is doing in our lives.

It all started when we began to trust Him for our salvation.

All the good deeds apart from Christ did not please Him

All the sin that we tried to stay away from were unable to please Him.

Only when we started to trust Him was He pleased.

**9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**

What makes a Christian a Christian?

Some might answer and say that they went forward at an altar call 25 years ago

Some might answer that they raised their hand

Or that they signed a pledge card at a church

Or were members of a church

Those things do not make a Christian a Christian

What makes an individual a Christian is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

The moment an individual repents and puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord – they are born again.

The Spirit of God sovereignly dwells within that individual.

The Spirit of God takes up residence within the life of the individual

Turn to Ephesians 1

By the way – for homework – read Ephesians 1:3-14

Because in verse 3-14 – we have the work of the trinity in salvation –

You have the Father's Work

You have the Son's Work

And we are going to be looking at the Holy Spirit's work in 13,14

**[Eph 1:13-14 NKJV] 13 In Him you also [trusted], after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.**

When we believe in Jesus – the gospel of our salvation

Then, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

And when you think of the word seal – remember that back in the day – when someone showed possession – it was always with a seal. They would take wax and then they would make an indentation with the person's signet ring that said – this belongs to me.

I also had you make a note of the word guarantee.

Because the word that is used in the Greek would be equivalent to an engagement ring.

A promise that a day in the future that person is going to make me their spouse.

It's a promise.

And in the exact same way – the Holy Spirit is a promise to us that one day soon – Jesus will come back, and He is going to receive us to Himself.

So what is Paul telling us here in verse 9

Here is what he is trying to tell us.

If we the Holy Spirit dwells in us

How then, can we not live in the Spirit?

How can the flesh dominate our way of thinking and what we do –

And Paul's answer – in reality – it can't.

**10 And if Christ [is] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin, but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness.**

In verse 1 of chapter 8 –

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

You have heard me repeat it for the last week – I want to make sure that we grasp it.

In verse 1 – it was all about our position.

Those in Christ – no condemnation

But here in verse 10 – it is no longer about position

It is no longer about us in Christ

It is about Christ being in us

It is about possession.

In order for us to walk in the Spirit, Christ has to be in us

In order for us to imitate Christ – Christ has to be in us

He is life.

He brings life.

He gives life.

We don't need Jesus + anything

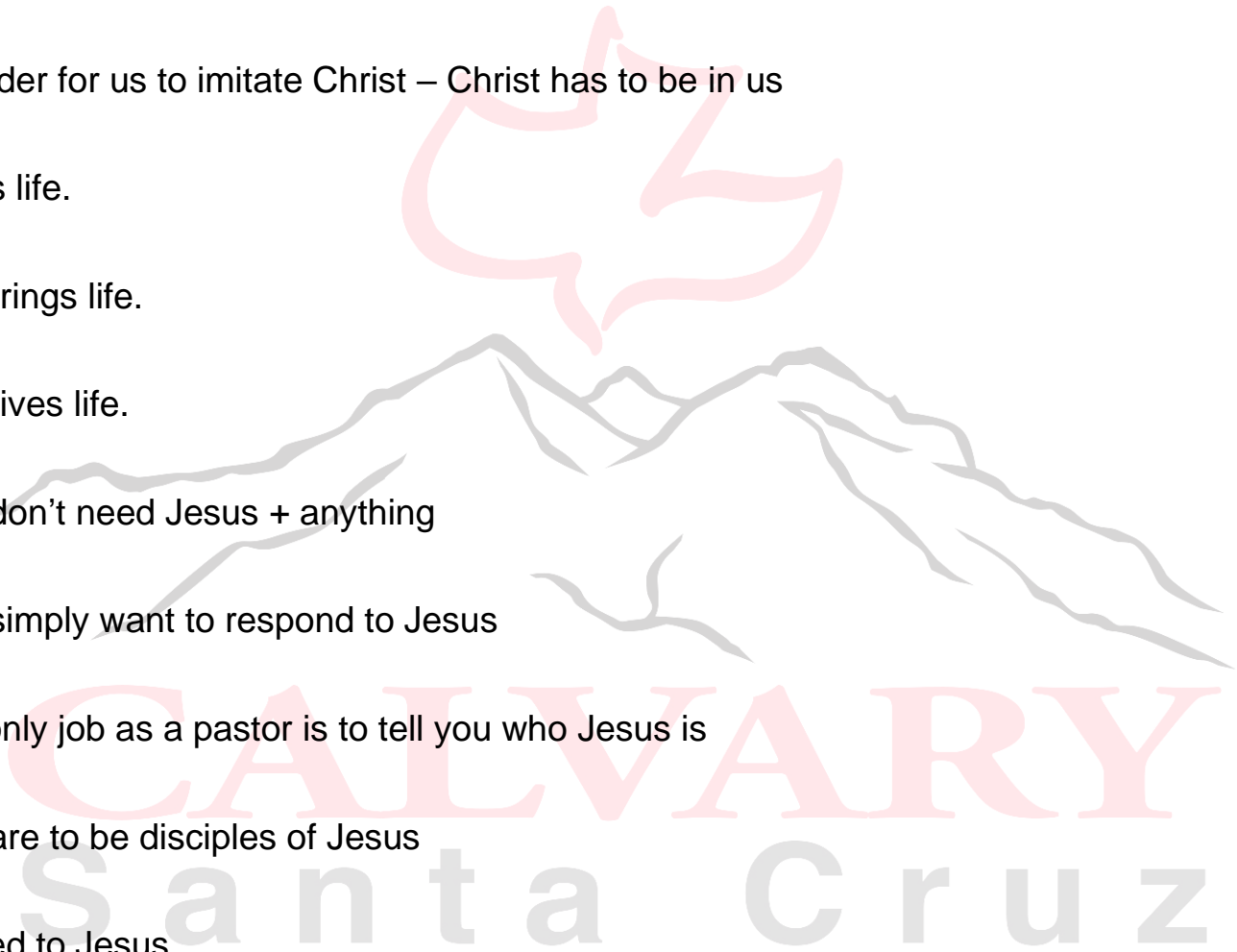
We simply want to respond to Jesus

My only job as a pastor is to tell you who Jesus is

We are to be disciples of Jesus

Yoked to Jesus

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



In verse 10 – it was Jesus in us

Here in verse 11 – it is the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

When we've become born again, we no longer have to live under the slavery of the flesh.

We no longer have to obey its every command.

We now have the ability to do the things that God wants us to do.

Again, not by our strength –

We rely on His strength

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave –

In you and me

And in the same way that the inner person is changed by the Holy Spirit

So to – the outward will see a transformation

You see, the hope of Jesus is not only that we go to heaven when we die but also we experience a spiritual resurrection now – and later on – we will also experience a physical resurrection as well.

Our mortal body, the flesh, will be liberated from the effects of the curse.

I want to end with this –



An Old Dead guy – DL Moody

He was teaching on walking in the Spirit –

And his teaching was on – How - We can never overcome the flesh by the flesh, we need to yield to the Spirit

And he had a cup in his hand and asked the question

How can I get the air out of the cup in my hand?

Someone suggested sucking the air out with a pump –

But that would create a vacuum and destroy the cup.

So – finally after many suggestions –

He picked up a pitcher of water and filled the sup to the top

"There," he said, "all the air is now removed."

And this was his point.

Victory for the believer does not come by working hard to eliminate sinful habits – but rather by allowing the Holy Spirit to take full possession.

And that church is what happens as we walk in the Spirit

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.

The best thing about me – is Jesus in me

The best thing about you is Jesus in you

And God has placed us in the lives of people who need to see Jesus.

[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.'

