Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Romans - The Righteous Will Live by Faith
Chapter 8 (Part 1) – "Life by the Spirit"
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11-8-26

PRIMARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS
***"The righteous will live by faith."* – Romans 1:17**

THEMES

CH. 1-3	Depravity, Justice, and Grace
CH. 4-5	Faith – Origins and Impact (O.T. Reflections > Abraham and Adam)
CH. 6-7	Living in Grace – motivation, frustration, and salvation
CH. 8	**TODAY - Living in the Power of the Spirit vs. the Lust of the Flesh**

THEOLOGICAL TERMS (under the hood)

- **Adoption (this week)**
- **Condemnation –** suffering the guilt and consequences of sin
- **Expiation** – removing from
- **Imputation** – credit to one's account
- **Justification** – being treated "just if I'd" never sinned
- **Predestination (next week)**
- **Propitiation** – taking upon; to satisfy the demands of justice
- **Righteousness** – rightness; in right relationship
- **Salvation** – being rescued from sin
- **Sanctification** – declared clean on the outside, being made clean on the inside
- **Glorification (next week)**

ROMANS 1-7 SUMMARY / CONTEXT: We are made righteous, holy, and acceptable to God BY God! He justifies us by the faith that He also gives to us. As a result of being justified by God, **we now have peace with God. The war with God is over, but the war within us (flesh vs. spirit) has just begun.** Whereas previously we were slaves to the sinful flesh, we are now set free to walk in a whole new way of life by God's life-giving Spirit. Even so, the struggle is real and often intense between gratifying the sinful desires of the old self (the flesh) and the new self (spirit). It can often bring us to a such a point of despair that we just want to give up. Paul felt that big time, and expressed, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" And he spoke truth to himself and to us when he said, "Thanks be to God who delivers me through Jesus Christ."

SUMMARY VERSE – "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live." – Romans 8:13

TEXT - Romans 8:1-16

1. SALVATION (vs. 1-4)
Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering **(propitiation).** And so he condemned sin in the

flesh **(expiation),** 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us **(imputation),** who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit **(sanctification).**

- POWERLESS LAW – Law + Perfect Obedience (a must) = Life

- Previously, we were under God's wrath and condemnation, but now THEREFORE, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we are under God's grace and protection.

- **SALVATION = The Law exposed the problem. God, in Christ, fixed the problem.**
  - God sent Jesus to be one of us (2nd Adam) and live a perfect, sinless life.
  - Jesus made himself an offering for our sin (propitiation) to take upon himself God's wrath and condemnation poured out on sin
  - We received (by imputation) the righteous reward that Jesus earned for living a perfectly sinless life.
  - The Spirit causes us to walk in newness of life (sanctification)

2. FLESH (vs. 5-8) vs. Spirit

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is **death**, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is **hostile to** God; it **does not** submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.**

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FLESH

- Minds set on what the flesh desires
  - *"Lust of the flesh, Lust of the eyes, Pride of life."* – 1 John 2:16
- Death
- Hostile to God **INABILITY / DEAD IN OUR SINS**
- Does not submit to God's law
- Cannot submit to God's law / Cannot please God

3. SPIRIT (vs. 9-13)

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit,
if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.** 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. 11 And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,** he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. 12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, **we have an obligation (can't help it)** —but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. **SUMMARY VERSE: 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.**

Q: How do you know IF you have the Spirit of Christ in you?

Belief (mind) vs. Trust (heart)

- Protecting the Flesh vs. Exposing the Flesh
- Defensiveness vs. Humility
- Blame vs. Ownership
- Excuse-making vs. Repentant
- Tight-fisted vs. Open-handed
- Back turned vs. Facing towards
- Disgusted by God's Law vs. Delighted in God's Law

IF you are concerned, that's a good sign of God's Spirit > FRUIT IN YOUR LIFE

If Christ is in you, then even though your body will die, you're gonna live. Why? Because the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you. Wow!

LEAR JET TRAGEDY

- In less than 2 minutes, they went from 37,000 ft. (7 miles) where everything went from being normal and under control to crashing into the ground.
- "*Our Father, who art in heaven."* vs. "*Holy F, We're out of time."*
- Life is a vapor.

Q: Where are you with God?

- **Belief –** attitude of arrogance (i.e., "I've got it."), compartmentalized
  - **False Assurance –** believing God will grade on the curve; looking to yourself (I'm better than others), depending on what's in your head and not in your heart.
- **Trust –** attitude of surrender (i.e., "Help!"), whole heart

We have an obligation… by the Spirit, to put to death the misdeeds of the body. **<u>How</u>?**
By being led by the Spirit of God (vs. 14, see below).

Q: How do we live life such that we're being led by the Spirit of God?
A: Be filled with the Spirit

1. **<u>Invite</u>** God to fill you with His Spirit.
2. **<u>Turn from</u>** (and confess) your own sinful ways and attitudes.
3. **<u>Offer</u>** yourself to God.

If <u>nothing</u> is changing in your life (i.e., allegiances, affections, actions) and <u>it doesn't bother you</u>, then it's likely that the Spirit of God may not be in you.

"*Be killing sin or sin will be killing you."* – John Owen (17th Century Puritan theologian)

- *weeds in the garden*

But, when the Spirit of God is in you, you have been outwardly declared perfectly righteous and inwardly, you are being made perfectly righteous (sanctification).

4. ADOPTION (vs. 14-16)

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- **Leading God** (you're in control) **vs. Being led by God** (He's in control)
- **Adoption -** No longer a slave living in fear but a son living in freedom
- **Fear** (orphan) **vs. Faith** (Father "Abba" Daddy)

- **Q: How do you know if your spirit is testifying with God's Spirit?**
    - Read God's Word and pay attention to your spirit
        - desiring, hungering for, delighting in, satisfying
        - OR.. resisting, boring, doubting

Remember…

There is no condemnation (eternal life and not damnation) for those who are IN Christ Jesus. There is peace, power, and the ability to please God, when the Spirit of Christ is IN you. And when the Spirit of God is in you, you are an adopted son or daughter of the Sovereign God of the universe to whom you can call, "Abba Father (Daddy)."

And THAT'S Good News!