

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 3

Romans 8

INTRODUCTION: As is the case so often in the Bible, the truth of a chapter can be understood only in the light of the preceding chapter. Romans 8 can be understood only when one properly attaches it to Romans 7. In Romans 7 we have the conflict that goes on in every believer. Before a person is saved, he has just the old nature. When he is saved, Jesus comes in to live! Now there are two natures living in one body. In some places in the Bible they are called the “old man” and the “new man.” All of Romans 7 deals with the conflict. Paul tells us that what he would do, he doesn’t do, and what he would not do, that he does. In other words, he wants to do better, but finds it impossible to do so. He wants to refrain from doing bad, but finds it impossible to do so. There is the constant warfare raging between the two natures. In Romans 7:24 the Apostle Paul asks the question, “...who shall deliver me?” In other words, “Who can give me the victory in this battle?” Romans 8 then answers the question. The Holy Spirit gives the victory. Romans 8 is one of the great chapters in the Bible on the work of the Holy Spirit. In this chapter the Apostle reminds us that we can win the victory over the old man, over sin, over the flesh and over the old nature, only as we live and walk in the Spirit. The secret is not self; the secret is the Spirit-filled life. The secret is not talent; the secret is in following the leadership of the Spirit of God. This battle could be called “The Dual in a Duel.”

I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BELIEVER.

1. He leads the believer. Notice Romans 8:1, 14. Verse 14 tells us that He leads us, and verse 1 tells us that we are to walk after Him. In other words, the Holy Spirit leads us to know the will of God. He does this first in the inspired Scriptures that He gives to us. Then in cases not specifically covered by the Scriptures, He gives us special leading, and we can follow Him. Here is the great secret of the Christian life. It is not, “Where would I go?” but, “Where would He have me go?” It is not, “Where would I like to live?” but, “Where would He have me live?” The Christian may have this leadership by yielding himself daily to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
2. He has made the believer free from the law of sin and death. See Romans 8:1, 2. Why is this? When a person is saved, he is free from the law. I was once under the law, which means that a Holy God demanded that I be good, but I was not good. Hence, I must be punished. However, when I was saved, something happened. This is explained in Romans 7:9, “For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment [law] came, sin revived, and I died.” What does this mean? When I was saved, I died to the law, and now I am no more under the law of sin and death.

Perhaps this illustration will help. Suppose a person has broken the law. He is indicted and awaits the trial. While awaiting trial, he dies. Now there is nothing more the law can do to him. The law and the judge cannot take him to the courtroom, prop up his dead body in a chair, and make him stand trial, for the law can do nothing to him. When a man dies, he is free from the law of sin and death. This is true with a Christian. When he dies, he becomes free from the law of sin and death. This freedom is because the Holy Spirit comes in him to live, and he is now under the law of the Spirit of life in that he is a new creature.

Now let us go a step further. Suppose that this same person stands trial and is pronounced guilty and sentenced to die for his crime. While he is awaiting death, he dies of natural causes. Is he brought to the electric chair? Of course not! He is dead and cannot be under the law of sin and death. When a person receives Jesus Christ, he dies to the law and is no longer under the law of sin and death. Praise the Lord!

3. He helps the believer to be spiritually minded. See Romans 8:5, 6. What is the great difference between the person who is carnally minded (fleshly minded) and the one who is spiritually minded? The spiritually minded person yields himself to the Holy Spirit and asks the Holy Spirit to control his thoughts and his mind.
4. He lives in the believer. Notice in Romans 8:9 the words, “Spirit of God dwell in you.” Notice also the words, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” At salvation, the Holy Spirit comes in the believer to live. He never leaves us. He is a person Who lives with us. We should always be conscious of His presence. We should talk to Him, ask Him for help and strength, and realize that He is actually a person living in our bodies.

5. He raises the believer from the dead. See Romans 8:11. How was Jesus raised from the dead? He was raised by the power of the Holy Spirit. How will we be raised from the dead? That same Power will raise us! This is why one has to be born again in order to go to Heaven. There can be no resurrection unless the Spirit of God is in the body. He is the “Resurrector.” This is one of the great reasons for the necessity of the new birth.
6. He kills the deeds of the flesh. Notice in Romans 8:13 the word “mortify.” That word means “kill.” How can we destroy or kill the works of the flesh? Only as we yield to the Holy Spirit can the fleshly deeds be killed. If there is sin in our lives, that sin can be overcome only by yielding to the Spirit. He it is Who gives strength to overcome temptation. He it is Who gives victory over any particular sin. Without Him, it is impossible to win that victory.
7. He gives us an intimate relationship with the Father. Notice in Romans 8:15 the word “Abba.” In this verse it is the Greek word for our “papa” or “daddy.” It is the affectionate term for Father.

When a person walks in the Spirit, thereby mortifying the deeds of the flesh and doing God’s will, he becomes better and better acquainted with the Heavenly Father. Hence, the Holy Spirit leads him into such an intimate acquaintance that we call the Father, “Papa,” or “Daddy.” This is not a light, flippant relationship, but one that has deepened to the point of more familiarity.

8. He assures the believer that he is saved. See Romans 8:16. We could say it this way: “The Spirit itself beareth witness, walking alongside our spirit, that we are the children of God.” It implies a parallel walk. It is not that the Spirit bears witness “to” our spirit; it is the Spirit bearing witness “alongside” our spirit. The Holy Spirit bears witness that we are saved; our spirit bears witness that we are saved; hence, we have assurance before God that we are His own.
9. He will "adopt" the believer. Romans 8:23 is a very interesting verse. The word “adoption” here means “majority” or a “major,” as in contrast to a minor. When a Jewish child came of age, his father took off of him a coat called the “toga praetexta,” a coat worn by minors. He gave to his son the “toga virilis,” a coat worn by majors. This was called the “adoption.” The father would come to the “bema,” or the great seat of judging in the town. He would stand beside his son and publicly announce that he was giving his possessions, his name, and his inheritance to his son. He would also announce that the son was officially becoming a major and was no longer a minor. This was the occasion when the coats were exchanged. This typifies the time when we shall become majors and exchange our coat of minority for a coat of majority. This is at the rapture when Jesus comes, and we are changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.
10. He helps the believer’s weaknesses and infirmities. Notice Romans 8:26a. Ah, the Christian has a “doctor,” even the Spirit of Christ to help him to be strong and well. Also, this same Spirit leads the Christian to care properly for his body so he can be strong and well.
11. He leads the believer to pray aright. Notice in Romans 8:26b, “the Spirit...maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Sometimes the Christian comes to pray and does not know how to pray or what to pray. The Holy Spirit gives him the leadership he needs. When a person lifts his heart to God in prayer, he should ask for the help and leadership of the Holy Spirit to lead him to pray aright and remind him of what he should pray. The Holy Spirit leads the believer to pray in the will of God. Notice Romans 8:27b, “because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” He knows the will of God for our lives and can lead us to pray for His will and in His will.
12. He leads the believer to live the kind of life that will make everything turn out for his good. See Romans 8:28. When a person is in the will of God and loves God, everything turns out for good.

(Teacher: Use the illustration here about the old man who tasted some flour, shook his head, frowned, and said he hated the taste of flour. He then ate some baking powder, shook his head, and did likewise. He then ate some shortening with the same result. He then ate some salt with the same result. Then he smiled and said, “Put them all together and cook them, and I sure do love hot biscuits!”) Any particular event of life may seem distasteful, but if we love God and are in His will, all of these events, no matter how tasteless they may seem, will add up to what is best for us.

- II. NO CONDEMNATION TO THE BELIEVER! Notice very carefully Romans 8:1. Here is one of the great verses in the Bible. In Romans 7 the Apostle Paul had been discussing the battle that rages between the old nature and the new nature of the believer. Now in Romans 8 he is going to talk about the Holy Spirit giving the victory, and it makes him so happy he shouts, “NO CONDEMNATION!”

About the same thing is said in John 3:18, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” Note especially the words, “He that believeth on him is not condemned.” The word “condemned” here is the same as “judgment” or “condemnation.” The believer will never have to enter into judgment, for his sins were judged on the cross. This is also said in John 5:24, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” Notice the words, “shall not come into condemnation.” This is the same word that means “judgment.” The believer will never come into judgment for his sins. Jesus paid the penalty for us. He endured the sentence for sin, and now there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

(Teacher: Discuss the way a birthday gift or a Christmas present is given. Someone else pays for it; we use it. It is ours because we take it. Nothing can take it away from us if it is an unconditional gift.) The gift of salvation is this way. We have sinned. We are guilty under the law. The law of sin and death says that we should stand judgment. Jesus went to the cross and bore our judgment, which means that the Christian will never appear before the Great White Throne Judgment to receive the degrees of punishment for his sins. The believer will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards and to have his works judged, but his sins were judged in the body of Christ on the cross.

Man has sinned. Because of this, a man has to pay for that sin. Jesus said, “I will be a man. I am God, and I am equal with the Father, and I have lived in eternity with the Father. Now I will be a man.” Hence, He was born of a virgin. He grew up with all the testings, temptations, and trials of other men, but He was without sin. This means that He kept the law. God looked down from Heaven and said, “That is the way it ought to be done. I am pleased because Jesus has perfectly kept the law.” Then Jesus died in the place of those of us who have not kept the law. This means that when I was saved, I died in Him; so I am dead to the law of sin and death, and there is no condemnation or judgment awaiting me!

WORD STUDY:

1. In Romans 8:1, “condemnation” means “judgment.”
2. In Romans 8:7, “carnal” means “fleshly.” To “fleshen” is like salting something for seasoning. When a person is carnal, he “fleshens” his life, which means he “sprinkles flesh on it,” so to speak.
3. In Romans 8:13, “mortify” means “to kill.”
4. In Romans 8:15, “Abba” means “Daddy” or “Papa.”
5. In Romans 8:19, “manifestation” means “uncovering” or “unveiling.” It is the same as the word for “revelation.” When Jesus comes again, we will be unveiled, and we shall be like Him in His glorified body.
6. In Romans 8:28, “know” implies “to know something as a secret order would know something.” This is something that the Christian who is in the will of God and who loves God knows that no one else knows. It is our own special knowledge.
7. Also, in Romans 8:28, the words, “work together,” mean “fit the design.” God has a design for our lives. When we are in His will and love Him, all that happens to us fits that design. (Teacher: Use embroidering as an illustration. A child sits and watches his mother embroider. He asks her what she is doing. She says she is embroidering, but he can’t understand what is going on. From the child’s viewpoint, as he sits on the floor and sees the underneath side of the embroidery, it appears to be nothing but tangled threads. When she finishes, however, she brings him up, puts him on her knee, and shows the view from her side. He finds then and only then that there was a plan which she followed.) One day we will sit in Heaven with Christ and view things as He views them. Then we will find that God had a plan all the time and that everything experienced by a person who loved Him and did His will was a part of that plan.

8. Again, in Romans 8:28, the word “love” is the word “agape.” There are three words for love in the Greek. One means “deep love,” which is the word used here. Another means “fondness”; another means “romantic love.” The love that we have for God is the deep, abiding, “agape” kind of love.
9. In Romans 8:28, the word “purpose” means “plan.”

CONCLUSION: What a wonderful chapter! It starts out with “no condemnation” and ends with “no separation.” There is no condemnation to those who are in Jesus Christ, and those who have no condemnation will have no separation from Him and His love! From the time the Spirit of Christ came in us to live and throughout eternity, we will never be separated from our God. Notice Romans 8:35-39. The love of Christ will always be with us, and we will always be the objects of the greatest love ever given!