

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
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    - 5:12-19 Adam failed to lead to glory; Christ shall succeed
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    - 5:20-21 The law failed because of sin; Christ succeeds by grace
    - 6:1-7:25 Answering questions. *Since the law cannot justify...*
      - 6:1-14 *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*
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## No Condemnation to those in Christ Jesus

*Romans, Part XXXVI*

Romans 8:1-11

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. A Tale of a Bramble Bush (Lk 6:43-45)

<sup>43</sup>"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup>A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." (Lk 6:43-45)

### II. No Condemnation for those in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>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, <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>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.

#### A. What the law could not do, God did (1-4 cf. Rom 7:6; 1 Pet 1:3; 2:24)

Those who are in Christ Jesus have been set from bondage to sin and death – the law no longer condemns us. God sent His Son to bear the guilt of our sin and to endure the condemnation that sin deserved in his body on the tree. John Stott writes:

*"Not 'in sinful flesh', because the flesh of Jesus was sinless. Nor 'in the likeness of flesh', because the flesh of Jesus was real. But 'in the likeness of sinful flesh', because the flesh of Jesus was both sinless and real."*

#### B. The Contrast between Our Flesh and the Spirit's Work (5-8)

Those who remain in \_\_\_\_\_, *set their minds on the things of the flesh*. They live for some purpose other than the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. However, those in \_\_\_\_\_ *set their mind on the things of the Spirit* (5b). They live for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. God's law is their delight (cf. 7:22).

#### C. You are not in the Flesh (9-11)

Believers in Christ have been delivered from life in Adam and granted new life in the Spirit. If we do not have the \_\_\_\_\_, then we do not have Christ (9). The Spirit works in us to produce life and righteousness (10). This is just the down payment of that fullness of life which shall be given to us when God raises us to glory (11).

### III. The Opposition of Flesh and Spirit

John 5:24-29

<sup>24</sup>“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. <sup>25</sup>Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup>For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, <sup>27</sup>and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup>Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice <sup>29</sup>and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Matthew 12:33

“Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.”

#### A. Living According to the Flesh (Eph 2:1-3)

Our basic problem as human beings is not centered in our actions but in our \_\_\_\_\_; our sinful actions are but the fruit of our sinful corruption.

#### B. Living According to the Spirit (Jer 31:31-33; Ezek 36:25-27; 1 Jn 3:6)

Therefore, if we are to be saved God must transform our hearts; He must bring us from death to life. We must be born again (Jn 3) as Ezekiel promised:

<sup>25</sup>Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

In Romans 1-7, Paul mentions the Spirit’s work only four times (1:4; 2:29; 5:5; 7:6). In Romans 8, the Spirit is mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ times, eleven of them in our text today. Paul wants us to understand that the Christian’s obedience to God is not a matter of mere external conformity to a set of laws, but an inward transformation of character accomplished by the Holy Spirit. F.F. Bruce writes:

*“A vine does not produce grapes by Act of Parliament; they are the fruit of the vine’s own life; so the conduct which conforms to the standard of the kingdom is not produced by any demand, even by God, but it is the fruit of that divine nature which God gives as the result of what he has done in and by Christ.”*

Jesus died to forgive the guilt of our sin and then rose from the dead so that His resurrection power could give us new life by the Spirit. The Spirit enables us:

- 4 – to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law
- 5b – to set our minds on the things of the Spirit
- 6b – to experience Life and peace with God
- 10 – to struggle with sin while knowing the taste of life and righteousness
- 11 – to live in hope of the resurrection

#### C. Our Trinitarian Glorification

These verses reflect Paul’s robust Trinitarianism. Who is responsible for our salvation?

<sup>13</sup>But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, <sup>14</sup>to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thes 2:13-14)

### IV. Conclusion