

ROMANS

Lesson 8

Romans Chapter 8

In our last lesson, we looked at the struggle that we all face when trying to live a life pleasing to God, while doing it in a body prone to sin. In the end, Paul realized that while we all have that struggle, in the end Christ will rescue us. Realizing that our struggle is short-lived in comparison to our eternity with Him, we need to live by the power living in us—honoring God in all that we do.

Paul talks about this power in Romans Chapter 8, so let's take some time during this lesson to look at living in the power of God's Holy Spirit.

Read Romans Chapter 8 from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) below, or from your favorite version.

Romans 8

Living by the Power of God's Spirit

¹If you belong to Christ Jesus, you won't be punished. ²The Holy Spirit will give you life that comes from Christ Jesus and will set you free from sin and death. ³The Law of Moses cannot do this, because our selfish desires make the Law weak. But God set you free when he sent his own Son to be like us sinners and to be a sacrifice for our sin. God used Christ's body to condemn sin. ⁴He did this, so that we would do what the Law commands by obeying the Spirit instead of our own desires.

⁵People who are ruled by their desires think only of themselves. Everyone who is ruled by the Holy Spirit thinks about spiritual things. ⁶If our minds are ruled by our desires, we will die. But if our minds are ruled by the Spirit, we will have life and peace. ⁷Our desires fight against God, because they do not and cannot obey God's laws. ⁸If we follow our desires, we cannot please God.

⁹You are no longer ruled by your desires, but by God's Spirit, who lives in you. People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them don't belong to him. ¹⁰But Christ lives in you. So you are alive because God has accepted you, even though your bodies must die because of your sins. ¹¹Yet God raised Jesus to life! God's Spirit now lives in you, and he will raise you to life by his Spirit.

¹²My dear friends, we must not live to satisfy our desires. ¹³If you do, you will die. But you will live, if by the help of God's Spirit you say "No" to your desires. ¹⁴Only those people who are led by God's Spirit are his children. ¹⁵God's Spirit doesn't make us slaves who are afraid of him. Instead, we become his children and call him our Father. ¹⁶God's Spirit makes us sure that we are his children. ¹⁷His Spirit lets us know that together with Christ we will be given what God has promised. We will also share in the glory of Christ, because we have suffered with him.

A Wonderful Future for God's People

¹⁸I am sure that what we are suffering now cannot compare with the glory that will be shown to us. ¹⁹In fact, all creation is eagerly waiting for God to show who his children are. ²⁰Meanwhile, creation is confused, but not because it wants to be confused. God made it this way in the hope ²¹that creation would be set free from decay and would share in the glorious freedom of his children. ²²We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth.

²³The Spirit makes us sure about what we will be in the future. But now we groan silently, while we wait for God to show that we are his children. This means that our bodies will also be set free. ²⁴And this hope is what saves us. But if we already have what we hope for, there is no need to keep on hoping. ²⁵However, we hope for something we have not yet seen, and we patiently wait for it.

²⁶In certain ways we are weak, but the Spirit is here to help us. For example, when we don't know what to pray for, the Spirit prays for us in ways that cannot be put into words. ²⁷All of our thoughts are known to God. He can understand what is in the mind of the Spirit, as the Spirit prays for God's people. ²⁸We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. They are the ones God has chosen for his purpose, ²⁹and he has always known who his chosen ones would be. He had

decided to let them become like his own Son, so that his Son would be the first of many children.³⁰God then accepted the people he had already decided to choose, and he has shared his glory with them.

God's Love

³¹What can we say about all this? If God is on our side, can anyone be against us? ³²God did not keep back his own Son, but he gave him for us. If God did this, won't he freely give us everything else? ³³If God says his chosen ones are acceptable to him, can anyone bring charges against them? ³⁴Or can anyone condemn them? No indeed! Christ died and was raised to life, and now he is at God's right side, speaking to him for us. ³⁵Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and nakedness, or danger and death? ³⁶It is exactly as the Scriptures say,

"For you we face death

all day long.

We are like sheep

on their way

to be butchered."

³⁷In everything we have won more than a victory because of Christ who loves us. ³⁸I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not life or death, not angels or spirits, not the present or the future, ³⁹and not powers above or powers below. Nothing in all creation can separate us from God's love for us in Christ Jesus our Lord!

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Consider the questions below regarding Paul's comments:

1. Paul's opening words in Chapter 8 are very significant and contain a statement that we need to examine further. Examine Romans 8:1-2. What is Paul telling us in verse 1 about being punished for our sins?

2. How can Paul say that we won't be punished? Doesn't the Bible tell us that we will all be judged? Read the following verses and jot down the differences between the judgment of the lost and the judgment of the saved.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

 - b. John 5:24

 - c. Romans 14:10

 - d. 2 Corinthians 5:10

 - e. Revelation 20:12-15

 - f. Luke 18:11-27

 - g. Luke 17:7-10

 - h. Matthew 25:14-30

3. In verses 5-13, Paul lists the differences between the life of a believer and the life of a lost person. List the differences Paul calls out in these verses:

4. Paul tells us in verses 14-17 that we are now God's children. What does he tell us are the benefits of being a child of God?

5. We have a wonderful future as the people of God, according to Paul. List some of the things that await us in the wonderful future as described by him in verses 18-30? See also Revelation Chapter 21.

6. What do Romans 8:31 and 1 John 4:4 have in common?

7. The closing verses of Romans 8 are some of the most powerful in the Bible. They speak to the security of the believer and to our assured victory over the world's trials and tribulations. Read verses 31-39 again and list all of the things that cannot "separate us from the love of Christ."

And so we see that, through the Holy Spirit, we are saved from judgment and can live a life with inner peace serving Christ our savior. We can do this knowing that sin no longer has dominion over us and knowing that nothing, absolutely nothing, can ever separate us from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! What a future we have waiting for us: free of sin, judgment, tears, pain and suffering, living with God our father, Jesus his son, and the Holy Spirit in a new heaven and new earth. I can't wait!

With this reassurance and this hope, let's serve the Lord this week with Gladness!

May He richly bless you as you study His Holy Word this week.

In Christ, Wes