

## Studies in Romans

Chapter 8:1-12:13 Review

Chapter 8:14-27 What the Spirit is doing to prepare the children of God for the coming of Christ

Review:

Romans 1-3:20 defines fully our sinfulness and need of a Saviour.

3:21-31 states the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus and the humility that should come to those so blessed.

4:1-25 amplifies and defines further the doctrine of justification by faith using the faith and justification of David and Abraham as an examples.

5:1-11 declares the benefits of our justification.

5:12-21 teaches that through Adam's disobedience, we all died. Through the obedience of Christ, all His people are made righteous. This passage reviews the surpassing blessings of Christ.

6:1-23 states the theology of why sin does not have dominion over us and strong exhortations for us to give our whole selves to righteousness living.

7:1-25 We are dead to the law and married to Christ; the law clearly shows us our sin; Paul declares warring of flesh and spirit in himself.

8:1-13 Provision to walk in the Spirit and to mortify sin

This Lesson:

- I. What is the Spirit doing for the children of God in the areas of sonship, heirship, hope, and prayer as they wait in groaning for the coming day of the Lord Jesus?
- II. What are the three groanings of this passage?
- III. What is the ultimate preparation being made by the Spirit for the children of God?

Reference	Notations
<p><b>Rom 8:14-27 NKJV</b> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." (16) The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with <i>Him</i>, that we may also be glorified together. (18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy <i>to be compared</i> with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (19) For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. (20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected <i>it</i> in hope; (21) because the creation itself also will be delivered from</p>	<p>See Matt 10:25; John 16:33; 2 Tim 2:11,12; 1 Peter 1:7; 2 Cor 4:17</p> <p>Futility = idle, resultless (Vincent) See Gen 3:17-19</p> <p>See Isa. 11:6-9</p>

the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. (23) Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (24) For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? (25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance. (26) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (27) Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

See 2 Cor 5:2-4; 1 Cor 15:50-55; 1 John 3:2

Summary of Pastor Fred's Malone's sermon on the inward witness of the Spirit.

Romans 8:11-17 (*copied from the last lesson*)

1. The Lord adopted Israel and teaches of His saving grace by adopting us as children Eph 1:5
  2. The witness of the Spirit is a sense of knowing that God is your Father, and you are His child and that He will not forsake you (David said that if my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up).
  3. It is to have joy in worship. It comes from reading passages in the Word and having it applied to your heart by the Holy Spirit.
  4. It is being sure that God is your Father and you want to live for Him and keep His commandments.
  5. Pastor Malone seeks to answer some questions: 1) "What is it to be an adopted child of God?" 2) "How can you tell if you have the witness of the Spirit?" 3) "What are the benefits of being an adopted child of God?"
- 1) What is it to be an adopted child of God? Every adopted child of God has the Spirit of God dwelling in them. Romans 8:9 The Spirit keeps our faith alive to pray. The Spirit convicts us of sin. The only reason you are thinking of Jesus Christ crucified is because the Spirit is bringing Him to your mind. The new birth is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. There are several errors being taught. 1. That you have to have a second work of grace where you are put on a higher plane, but see 1 Cor 12:13. 2. The seal of the Holy Spirit. Some puritans taught falsely that when you were saved, you were safe, but that you needed a sealing of the Holy Spirit, but 2 Cor 1:21,22 says that we were sealed at our conversion (see also Eph 1:13). 3) Some have said that when you sin, the Holy Spirit leaves you. This is heresy. You are in union with Christ and the Spirit eternally dwells in you. What then is the witness of the Spirit with or to our Spirit? **The Spirit is a witness to us that we are an adopted child of God. It is that spiritual sense that God is no longer your condemning judge because of Christ's atoning work for you on**

**the cross. You now stand in the kingdom of grace. It is a sense that God is your Father.** We sense that we live in the presence of a great Father who cares for us even in discipline and trials. When you read your Bible, the Spirit testifies that His Word is special and that God is speaking to you in the promises and the commandments. Another false teaching is that you can believe in the Lord, but your heart is not changed. You then need to “fully surrender” to God and God will then do it all for you. The Scripture tells us that by the Spirit, we seek to put to death the deeds of the body to bring glory and honor to the One who shed His blood for your soul. Weak faith can take hold of a strong Christ and then He will seal you with His Holy Spirit.

- 2) How can you tell if you have the witness of the Spirit? You have a love for God and His truth. Second, that you have a working faith – not a Sunday faith, but a faith that goes into all aspects of your life. It is more important that you honor God than anything that you would accomplish in a day. Thirdly, you really want to overcome all sin in your life and it grieves you when you do not. You go back to Him and say, “Daddy, I did not honor you today and I want to please You.”
- 3) What are the benefits of being an adopted child of God? The witness of the Spirit leads you to want to suffer with the Lord Jesus. The witness of the Spirit gives you grace to set your mind on the Lord through trials. You know that you have everything that you need. You learn to be content in every circumstance. You have a sense that the Lord has saved you and that He delights in you. The Spirit testifies to you that God is for you and will never forsake you. He who has delivered up the Lord Jesus, will also provide for you all things. You find everything you need in Him by the witness of the Spirit. You also will continue to grow in assurance that you are a child of God. Your worship becomes more joyful. Your love for you enemies becomes more sincere.
- 4) There is good news for the one who does not know the Father. Go to the Lord Jesus Christ. At His feet you will find a relationship that is loving and faithful.

John Brown's title for Romans 8:17-37: “The afflictions to which, in the present state, the Justified are exposed, are not inconsistent with the reality and permanence of that Special Divine Favour which, as Justified, they enjoy.”

Regarding v.17 “Every trial will be found to have improved the character – made it more capable of celestial glory, and nothing but the dross shall have perished. The afflictions of the justified are not only to be followed by glory, but they are the appointed and appropriate path to it.” – John Brown, *Analytical Exposition of the Epistle of Paul, the Apostle to the Romans*, p. 225.

Questions:

1. Relate the many, many things that the Spirit of God is now doing in us and for us from v. 11 to 27 to keep us and prepare us for meeting the Lord in glory?

