

ROMANS (continued)

(8) HOLY SPIRIT CHAPTER

BACKGROUND: Before beginning this chapter about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, a quick review of the general theme of Romans, which is the **righteousness of God**, will help us to emphasize again the two words: **justification and sanctification**....these walk hand in hand....**justification means that the PENALTY of sin has been paid by the blood of Jesus Christ....and sanctification means that the POWER of sin cannot DOMINATE our behavior because of the Holy Spirit...**

Paul has been listing the benefits of justification: namely, **peace, holiness, and invincibility and liberty**....and also ending each chapter from 5-8 with the phrase "by, through or in Jesus Christ"....Paul emphasizes that we are **free and fortified**....his dilemma in Chapter 7:24 brings us to a question you may have...."how can I, if I am a believer, have sin dominating me? Because you aren't living that life anymore since you are free???? Paul rejoices in Gal.5:1...**I am free and fortified!**

Now if I have been set free from the penalty of sin and know that the Law was my school-teacher to bring me to Christ, and that my righteousness I have received through the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross....**then why do I not have the victory....answer: you don't have to live there anymore...(song by Bob Harrington, preacher on Bourbon Street -1963 and still living at (85)....**

Here is where **justification and sanctification come together** in Chapter 8....you don't have to live there anymore...because the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead lives **within you**....and we will discover that He is also the one who raises you from the dead (8:11)....everything can be **NEW!**

Disappointments come to all of us sooner or later....we are told that God loves us, knows all things and has power over all things....what a powerful trio we have (He is all loving, all knowing and all powerful)then, what is this doing in my life???? Have I missed a step somewhere by going past the stop???? Did I really understand in the first place??? I was so sure that I got it?? Dilemmas and disappointments also go together....that is why Paul arrives at this point in his life by saying "O wretched man that I am?"that is where we have arrived also....sometime, someplace....there is a saying "**IF I KNEW THE WHY, LORD, I COULD BETTER MANAGE THE HOW**"If I knew what you are thinking and doing, I could handle the process that You use to accomplish it all....

DISCUSSION: What recent development in your life has caused you a disappointment or dilemma? How are you processing it and is it altering your attitude toward God and others? This is self-realization at its better moments?

ROMANS (continued)

(8) continued: Paul introduces this chapter with the word “therefore” ... meaning what has gone before (7:25)....this “deliverance by Jesus Christ is worth our praise ...the phrase “no condemnation means not only the penalty and guilt of sin...but its continuing enslaving power... Paul speaks about the “law of the Spirit of life”because He is life in His very essence and imparts life by His vitalizing power of a union with Him...(v.2)...here are some of the **NEW** blessings we have in Him....

NEW POSITION: Position means “place” We know that our position can be very important (example: seats at the super bowl or in line for a certain event) because it changes the environment around you and its privileges...when we are “in Christ” we have entered into that state of blessing and deliverance....a new freedom that the world cannot provide or find an equivalent...this intervention of Christ puts an end to the struggle that has waged in our lives.... the Holy Spirit comes to live within us....He brings a law that sets you free from the law of sin and death ... you are living a life of what the Spirit desires for you, the penalty of sin has been broken...the mind that is governed by the flesh is **hostile to God and cannot please God....**if the Spirit of Christ does not live within you, **you do not belong to Christ....**when the Spirit reigns in you, even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of “righteousness” ...(Vs.1-10)

NEW POWER: Jesus Himself informed His disciples that He would ask the Father and He will give you the Spirit of truth...Paul adds that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise up believers (v.11)....

NEW PASSION: Addressing them as brothers, Paul urges them to follow the Spirit in living this life in our mortal bodies....being free from the presence of sin does not occur until the future...in the meantime, we need to be “putting to death the disgraceful deeds of the body”,and know that they are being led by the Spirit....(vs. 12-13)...when we choose “to do the right thing”, we are encouraged to do more....

NEW RELATIONSHIP: There is another blessing by being led by the Spirit, and that is we have received the Spirit of **adoption....we call “Abba Father “(really carries the sense of when a child would use “daddy”)....the Spirit bears witness that we are the children of God...we are in the household of faith....yes, we are heirs of the family and joint-heirs with Christ....no longer slaves, but His children with an inheritance....(vs. 14-17)...the Romans understood “adoption” ...**

DISCUSSION: What do each of these “New” blessings mean to you???

NEXT WEEK: Rest of Chapter 8....can you list some additional “new”blessings?

POINTS TO PONDER: **The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not keep you.....**