

## Romans Class 6

### Recap Weeks 1-5

Gospel: Righteousness through faith

Jew and Gentile both under sin

Righteousness apart from law (Abraham)

Applies to all descendants of Adam

Leads away from sin, toward holiness. Don't stay in sin because:

- baptism (died to sin)
- set free from slavery to sin
- sin leads to death
- death of old self, set free from Law (marriage)

Law increases tendency to sin

Will continue to struggle until we are set free from this body.

### Romans 8: Life in the Spirit

Romans 8: Another difficult passage.

Basic message is clear:

Gospel accomplishes what Law could not.

- Delivers from condemnation
- Gift of adoption
- Hope of future deliverance from the flesh
- Holy Spirit to sustain us while in the flesh
- Assurance of a great outcome in the end

### READING ROM 8 OUT OF ESV FOR THIS CLASS

Summary up to this point:

(Rom 8:1) There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

(Rom 8:2) For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

(Rom 8:3) For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, **he condemned sin in the flesh,**

(Rom 8:4) in order that the **righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,** who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## Set your minds

(Rom 8:5) 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 **set their minds on the things of the Spirit**. **[THIS IS THE KEY!]**

(Rom 8:6) To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

(Rom 8:7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

(Rom 8:8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Col 3:1) Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

(Col 3:2) **Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**

(Php 4:8) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--**think about such things**.

(Php 4:9) Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

(1Ti 6:9) People who **want to get rich** fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction.

(1Ti 6:17) Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant **nor to put their hope in wealth**, which is so uncertain, but to **put their hope in God**, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

**(ESV)**

(1Jn 2:15) **Do not love the world or the things in the world.** If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(1Jn 2:16) For all that is in the world -- the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions -- is not from the Father but is from the world.

(1Jn 2:17) And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

(2Pe 1:5) For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your **faith** **goodness**; and to goodness, **knowledge**;

(2Pe 1:6) and to knowledge, **self-control**; and to self-control, **perseverance**; and to perseverance, **godliness**;

(2Pe 1:7) and to godliness, **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness, **love**.

(2Pe 1:8) For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(2Pe 1:9) But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

(2Pe 1:10) Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. **For if you do these things, you will never fall**,

(2Pe 1:11) and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**(ESV) (Gal 5:13) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

(Gal 5:14) For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

(Gal 5:15) But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

(Gal 5:16) But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

(Gal 5:17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for **these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.**

(Gal 5:18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are **not under the law.**

(Gal 5:19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

(Gal 5:20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

(Gal 5:21) envy,<sup>[4]</sup> drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. **I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

(Gal 5:22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

(Gal 5:23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(Gal 5:24) **And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

(Gal 5:25) **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.**

## BACK IN ROMANS...

(Rom 8:9) You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

(Rom 8:10) But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

(Rom 8:11) If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.**

(Rom 8:12) So then, brothers, **we are debtors**, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

(Rom 8:13) For **if you live according to the flesh you will die**, but **if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

(Rom 8:14) For all who are **led by the Spirit** of God are sons of God.

The Holy Spirit leads us toward righteousness

- in union with our own spirit (setting our minds on things above).
- confirming to us that we are children of God.

## Adoption

(Rom 8:15) For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption as sons**, by whom we cry, **"Abba! Father!"**

(Rom 8:16) **The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,**

(Rom 8:17) and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, **provided we suffer with him** in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Roman adoption:

- patria potestas – the father's rule over the family. Absolute control.
- Roman son never grew out from under patria potestas
- Adoption: pass from one patria potestas to another. Solemn ceremony.
- Effects of adoption
  1. Lost all rights to old family. Gained all rights of second.
  2. Became heir to second father. Legally binding.
  3. Legally, old life was wiped out. Including any debts.

## Awaiting our resurrection

(Rom 8:18) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

### Very difficult passage, 8:19-23

- In some sense, referring to the **gradual decay** of this creation
- Contrast to the **eternal nature** of the new Heaven and new Earth
- A concept familiar to the Jew

(Rom 8:19) For the creation waits with eager longing [**apokaradokia, anxious and persistent expectation; eagerly scanning horizon for something greatly anticipated**] for the revealing of the sons of God.

(Rom 8:20) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope

(Rom 8:21) that the creation itself will be set free from its **bondage to decay** and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

(Rom 8:22) For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. [**awaiting the birth of the new heaven, earth**]

(Rom 8:23) And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have **the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**

(Rom 8:24) For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

(Rom 8:25) But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- Encouraged to persevere because of hope

## More help from the Spirit

(Rom 8:26) Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

(Rom 8:27) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- God recognizes our decaying, fallen nature
- Spirit intercedes on our behalf

## Overabundant Blessing!

(Rom 8:28) **And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.**

- Those who love God = those who are called according to his purpose

(Rom 8:29) For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- Foreknew: (Gk progenosko) Rom 16:25-26

(Rom 16:25) Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of **the mystery hidden for long ages past**,

(Rom 16:26) but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him--

(Rom 16:27) to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

(1Co 2:7) No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God **destined for our glory before time began**.

Eph 1:8, Eph 3:9, Col 1:25-26

- God knew from the beginning that certain people would accept salvation
- Those are the ones he predestined [Gk proorizo] to be conformed.

(Rom 8:30) And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

(Rom 8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

(Rom 8:32) He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- God already proved how much he will give up for our benefit

(Rom 8:33) Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

(Rom 8:34) Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died -- more than that, who was raised -- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- If God justifies, Jesus died and intercedes for us
- No one is left who can condemn us!

## **Paul elaborates on idea from 8:28**

(Rom 8:35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

(Rom 8:36) As it is written, [Psalm 44:22 --- re: Babylonian captivity]

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;  
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

(Rom 8:37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- These things seem to be our enemies
- Yet these are the very things that bring us our reward
- Even these things work together for good in the end!

(Rom 8:38) For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

(Rom 8:39) nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Don't miss the message amidst the eloquence: God's amazing love!