

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

"How do you stand before God? Sinner, Saint, or Something in between?"

Week 10: Romans 8:1-17, "Set Your Mind on Repentance"

Quick Review of Romans 7

Paul spoke about the struggle that the Christian has of living in this body of sin while also knowing that one has been baptized into Christ. We see sin working in our life, being brought to our mind by the Law. This does not make the Law evil, rather, it is holy, and we are sinful. Yet we who are also baptized and holy before God want to do what is right. The rule of sin in our body is fighting against the rule of the Gospel in our mind. Chapter 7 ends with the familiar, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin" (Rom 7:24-25).

I. Romans 8:1-8

1. Without Jesus Christ what is the condemnation? Read 6:23 and 7:24.

2. What does it mean "to be in Christ Jesus"? Read 5:1 and 6:4

3. "Law" as it is used by Paul is a difficult term to express, because it has four different meanings, which depend on the context to tell us which one to use. In verse 2, he's using it as a "rule" or "system"- so "the *rule* of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the *rule* of sin and death." Yet in verse 3 "law" is used to signify that which expects righteousness in man. What is the "rule of the Spirit of life" and what is the "rule of sin and death"?

4. How do verses 3-4 talk about Christ's fulfillment of the law?

5. How does one set his mind on the "things of the flesh"? the "things of the Spirit"?

6. How does Paul describe our sinful flesh in verse 7?

II. Romans 8:9-11

7. “You” in verse 9 is plural, referring to the church at Rome. How do we know that the Spirit of God dwells among us in the Church?

8. How can Paul call our body a “body of death” (7:24; 8:10)?

9. Through the Spirit we have a spiritual resurrection. What does the Spirit assure us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ? (8:11)

II. Romans 8:12-17

10. When we think we owe the flesh something, what shall we remember? (8:12-13)

11. How does one go about putting to death the deeds of the body? Read 6:1-2

12. How does the spirit of slavery and of being a debtor to our flesh contrast with the truth that we have in the Spirit? 8:15

13. What goes along with being “children of God”? 8:16-17

Memory Verses for Today:

Romans 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.”

Romans 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.”