

Romans: Freedom and Security

(Romans 8)

Introduction:

1. Paul Begins chapters 1-4, hitting home the point: You all have sinned and need Jesus.
2. Chapters 5-7 transition into Paul's next argument: Christ Died For you; now you need to die for him.

I. Life in The Spirit

- A. (Romans 8:1-11)
- B. No condemnation for those in Christ
 1. Do we have a healthy view of salvation?
 - a) Some take grace as license, even today.
 - b) Many have a "fence-hopping" view of salvation.
 - c) Paul taught
- C. Walking according to flesh or according to spirit?
 1. Are we, as a church, living spiritual lives?
 - a) Is there evidence either way?
- D. The function of the Spirit?
 1. Received upon baptism — (Acts 2:38)
 2. The guarantor of your salvation — (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)

II. Heirs With Christ

- A. (Romans 8:12-30)
- B. The blessings of being a child of God.
 1. "Sonship" or "adoption" is a very important term for Paul.
 - a) (Romans 8:15, 23; 9:4; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5)
 2. You are brought in as a son, not a slave or servant.
 - a) (Luke 15:11-32) — Prodigal Son
 - b) Ill. Mansions are no good because they need too much to clean. We aren't the waitstaff in heaven.
- C. The conditional nature of being a child of God
 1. (Romans 8:17)
 2. One must "suffer with him"
 - a) (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- D. Blind Hope?
 1. (Romans 8:24-25)
 - a) The fulfillment of our hope has yet to be realized.
 - (1) Our yearning and groaning are our longings for the hope to be realized.
 - b) There are many reasons to believe this. It is not blind faith.
 2. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
- E. Predestination?
 1. (Romans 8:28-30)

- a) Two models of predestination:
 - (1) Ill. Imagine this was school...
 - (a) Calvin — Assigned grades based on where you sit
 - (b) Biblical — Assigned grades based on your performance.
 - (2) Biblical predestination:
 - (a) Man, not Plan. (Ephesians 1:3)
- b) There is a difference in foreknowing and foreordaining.
 - (1) Ill. Two trains going around a blind curve.

III. The Steadfast Love of the Lord.

- A. (Romans 8:31-39)
- B. If God is for us, who can stand against us?
 - 1. A Lesson that is hard learned.
 - a) Life seems to be nothing but obstacles.
- C. What can separate you from the Love of God?
 - 1. Are all those loved by God saved?
 - a) (Romans 5:8)
 - 2. What is the love of God?
 - a) (John 3:16)
 - b) The love of God is the choice of salvation. It is not forced upon you.

Conclusion:

- 1. Paul gives an incredible and deep theology of God's nature, love, and salvation.
- 2. Next week we will begin to look at chapter 9, one of the most controversial chapters of the Bible, but an essential chapter to understand the nature of God.