



Sunday January 18, 2015

ROMANS 8:1-17

A Present Help

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SERMON NOTES: Romans 8:1-17

Romans 8:1–4, Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

GOD ALONE MEETS MY DEEPEST NEED

- Through Jesus, the Spirit set me free, from my enslavement to sin
- How? The righteous requirements of the law were met by Jesus, and applied to our lives by the Spirit.

GOD CALLS ME TO LIVE IN A NEW WAY

Romans 8:5-8,⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.⁸ Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

- My mind has a new orientation: the desire of the Spirit, not of my sinful nature

THE POWER OF GOD IS AT WORK IN ME

Romans 8:9-11,⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Romans 8:12-17,¹² Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you **put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,**¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”¹⁶ **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.**¹⁷ Now if we are children, **then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,** if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

WE MUST FULL OUR CALLING

- Pursue God's will in the midst of a world broken by sin
- Maintain your relationship with the living God
- Share in his sufferings and we will share in his glory

The Second Step in "FINDING ME": Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.

CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE: Romans 8:1-17

OPENING

- Paul declares “There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1) In your personal experience has this truth been more of a comfort or a longing? Explain your answer to the group.

Leaders Note: This question is intended to get us thinking about how we experience God’s forgiveness in our lives. Have we experienced a genuine sense of God’s forgiveness, or are we still searching for it? Are we still overwhelmed by feelings of guilt and failure?

GOING DEEPER

- **In light of Romans 8:1, discuss the following quote:**

“One aspect that could be fruitfully explored would be the freedom Christ gives the Christian to stop brooding about a wicked past and to turn his or her attention to the present life with its opportunities for good. Preoccupation with how bad one might have been in the past, and unwillingness to let it go, is a form of resistance against God’s freeing Spirit. If God forgives sin through Christ, why should the Christian insist on cherishing its memory? Forgiveness is real. It should be taken seriously.”¹

Leaders Note: If the group has some difficulty processing the quote, you may want to ask the group if they know people who have been unable to get over their feelings of guilt. How productive or counter-productive were those feelings? How does a genuine encounter with God help us to overcome our failure and experience a new sense of freedom and joy?

CHALLENGE:

- The Second Step in “FINDING ME”: **Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover.** How did the teaching of Romans 8 help to reinforce that principle for you?

Leaders Note: Be ready to share your own response to this question, in order to encourage further discussion among the group.

¹ Achtemeier, P. J. (1985). *Romans*. Interpretation, a Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching (135). Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press.