

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 8:9-11

Student Notes:

Throughout this chapter, Paul has focused on the contrast between two broad people groups. He has outlined this contrast in such a way as to lead us to the next section.

- **A Contrast Between Two Broad People Groups:**

1. There are two categories of people -- the unregenerate who are 'in the flesh' and the regenerate who are 'in the Spirit'. See verse 5
2. The two categories of people have two perspectives or mindsets – “the mind of the flesh” and “the mind of the Spirit”. See verse 6
3. The two categories of people have two patterns of conduct: Living according to the flesh or the Spirit. That conduct affects their final destiny

- **A Change In Emphasis:** Verse 9

“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.”

Bible scholars: Romans 8:9-11 is the full and final answer to the question of Romans 7:24: "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

James Hastings puts it this way:

"This is one of the most searching passages ... in the Bible. It takes hold of the question of our salvation in a very substantial and thorough manner. It removes utterly, almost infinitely, from this problem of our destiny, all shadow of uncertainty or of doubt." (Romans 8-9 The Owner's Mark)

- **A Reason For Confidence:** v. 9

“You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.”

Alternate emphases: Some versions translate it as, "But as for you", while other render the Greek conjunction as "but", rather than "however."

A very literal translation: "You are absolutely not in the flesh if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you."

Keeping these words in context: There are two categories of people who have two mindsets, which produce two patterns of living – that will result in two different eternities.

A great word of confidence -- "You are absolutely not in the flesh if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you." (see also, Hebrews 6:9)

The "You" of Romans 8:9: "Those who born of the Spirit, have the indwelling of the Spirit – and -- are being transformed progressively into Christ's image.

"In a sense Paul presents two diametrically opposed directions -- a "Y" in the road of life if you will -- a journey every human will traverse either in the flesh or in the Spirit." – J.R. Stott

As if to punctuate this truth, Paul outlines the differences. Look at how he puts it in verse 9:

-- "You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you."

-- "And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."

- **Two Points of Soteriology** (Theology of Salvation)

1. The fundamental truth that the absolute indicator of Christian authenticity is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' words in John 14:

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate **to help you and be with you forever**—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you.**" – John 14:16-17

This is the truth of the indwelling Holy Spirit: At rebirth, He came to dwell within

you – on a forever basis. Jesus didn't say anything about experiential requirements because that equation can change on an almost daily basis.

Jesus said, "... He will be with you forever.

- **The "Y" In The Road:**

"And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ." John Stott's translation: "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ at all."

There's no middle ground here. To be without the Holy Spirit's indwelling is to not belong to Christ at all.

2. It is the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, who had been given the role of our Advocate, Our representative, our Comforter. Paul's descriptions: The "Holy Spirit" (v9), "The Spirit of Christ"(v.9), "The Spirit of God." (v.14)

The importance of these titles: To show the solidarity of the Holy Spirit with the other two persons of the Trinity. To have the Holy Spirit indwelling us is to have the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God within us.

"It is to emphasize that, although they are eternally distinct, in their personal modes of being, they also share the same divine essence and will. In essence, they are inseparable". – John Stott

- **The Consequences Of Having The Indwelling Spirit**

Paul's two observations on the consequences of having the indwelling Spirit. Two sets of verses: 10-11 and 2-13.

Look at verses 10-11:

10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life 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 because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Both of these statements begin with the words "If". Paul's purpose isn't to suggest doubt – it's rather the opposite. Paul is saying, "The result of Christ and

the Spirit" being in you, is that two things are certain."

What are the results of the Holy Spirit living in us? Paul expresses these in two ways: The first is in terms of life we have received – vv. 10-11. The second is in terms of debt or obligation – vv. 12-13

- **The Terms of Life: vv. 10-11**

Our Earthly Season

Our body is "subject to death because of sin". Paul is most likely pointing to our mortality. Our human bodies are both subject to death and predestined to it. Dr. Lloyd Jones: "The moment we enter into this world, and begin to live, we also begin to die. Your first breath is one of the last you will ever take!"

"... Even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness."

Right now, the Spirit is giving us life. We have a dying body but a living soul. Paul is pointing to present, eternal life. With the Holy Spirit's indwelling of our bodies, we have gained eternal life. (See: Romans 5:17)

Our Eternal Season: v.11

"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he (The Father) will also give life to your mortal bodies."

Right now, our mortal bodies are all experiencing the degradation of the power of Sin in this world. They are not being renewed; they are slowly dying. Our spirits have been renewed and are being made alive by the Holy Spirit.

However, the day is coming when our mortal bodies will be resurrected by the very same power that raised Jesus' body from the dead. The same Father-God that raised Jesus from the dead will do the same for us.

That's Paul's first observations on the consequences of having the indwelling Spirit: It's the terms of life.

- **Next time:** Our debt, or obligation in light of these truths.