

Commentary (Sermon Notes)

Romans Chapter 8

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What the Law Could Not Do

Romans 8 - Pt .1

Text: Romans 8:1-8

I. Introduction

A. What we are going to do today is begin to walk through some chapters in the book of Romans.

B. We will encounter themes in these chapters; themes like faith, grace, law, spirit, flesh, predestination, Israel, the Gentiles, and so on.

C. To begin with I want you to know that Paul wrote this epistle (according to Romans 1:1) to the saints who were dwelling in Rome - those people who believed in the only true God and had placed their faith in His Son Yeshua. This is why Paul begins his letter in Romans 1:7 saying "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua the Messiah."

1. Sometimes today we think about the concept of "church" and we think it means a building or a pretty large building. At times people hear about others who meet in what is called "home churches," and they think, "Well, that's probably not really classified as a church." But in Romans 16:5 we see that these early believers in Rome met in homes. This particular "home church" met in the home of Priscilla and Aquila.

2. So the first audience and destination here was believers in Messiah worshiping in home fellowships in what we would call Rome, Italy. There weren't great cathedrals or stain-glassed windows, or large pipe organs at this time. I'm not saying any of that is sinful (so long as truth is preached and lived by), but I'm just painting a picture for you that the early assembly wasn't what one might think it was.

D. So what do we have here in Romans 8? Let's dig into our text.

II. Romans 8:1-4

A. Verse 1

1. Therefore no condemnation now exists - A beautiful phrase, but we tend to skip by the negative aspect of this phrase.

a. If NO condemnation exists for a particular group of people, then that means that YES condemnation DOES EXIST for anyone who is not joined to that group.

b. The word condemnation refers to the wrath poured out by the holy God.

c. This Greek word is translated into English as condemnation but into Latin as *damnationus* from where we get our English word damnation.

d. So right from the get go here we need to recognize that some will be acquitted and others will be damned or condemned.

2. Who is safe then? The text says that it is those IN Messiah Yeshua who are acquitted, or receive *no* damnation.

a. It is important here that you understand you MUST be in Messiah in order to NOT receive condemnation.

b. Phrases like "But I'm a good person," or "I've never done anything THAT bad," or "How can a loving God send people to hell," are all just clichés made up by preachers and people who don't study the Bible.

c. If you are not IN Messiah, if you've not placed your faith in who He is, what He's done, and that He is coming back you will be damned for eternity.

d. The authentic Biblical faith is very exclusive. It is so exclusive that all Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and even mere professing Christians will be damned.

e. Only those who truly possess Christ, those who have genuinely placed their trust in Yeshua, have no condemnation.

f. I find it very unsettling that people are becoming more and more tolerant of other faiths. People are willing to accept others in spite of their non-acceptance of Yeshua as Messiah, the Son of God, the man upon whom the assembly is built.

g. See, according to Ephesians 2:20 we (the assembly) are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Yeshua as the chief *cornerstone*. This word refers to the extreme and primary corner stone that was laid to give strength to two walls that were connected.

h. This is how important Yeshua is. Without him you do not have the most important stone in your building. Without him you do not have the condemnation, damnation, or wrath of Yahweh removed from your life.

i. See, He drank the cup of Yahweh's wrath for those who TRULY believe in Him. If you do not truly believe in Him then you will have to undergo the wrath of Yahweh because He did not undergo it for you. Let me say it a little clearer: if you do not place your faith in the Son of God that means he did not die on your behalf.

3. So therefore no condemnation now exists for those who are in Messiah Yeshua.

B. Verse 2

1. Here in this verse we have a unique use of the English word "law."

2. We must not assume that every time we see the word "law" that it's a reference to the commandments of Yahweh.

3. Now I believe both of these uses (in vs. 2) are to be viewed as law equaling standard or principle in life. You have the...

a. #1) Spirit's law of life (in Messiah)

b. #2) The law of sin and death

4. According to this verse the one sets you free from the other.

5. When a person is outside of the Messiah (not IN Messiah, vs. 1) they operate according to the law of sin and death - they live and dwell within the realm of sin.

6. When a person is placed IN Messiah they operate by a different law, principle, or standard. They think differently, they thus act differently. They are operating by the Spirit's law of life now, it has released them from operating in accordance with the law of sin.

7. Let's illustrate this with an example of a thief. A thief operates according to the law of sin and death, why? He's not IN Messiah. Realize that this is why he will not be saved.

*However, if that thief places his trust in Messiah and is truly born from above, he is released from the law of sin and death because he now operates according to the Spirit's law of life.

8. Here's a key though. Why does this former thief operate differently now? Remember, it is the Spirit's law of life, not our law of life. The reason the thief has been delivered from sin is because of the Spirit, and not because of his own doing. Salvation is by grace, and not by works of law.

C. Verse 3

1. Now I believe Paul gives another use of the word law, and this time it is a reference to Yahweh's morality, teachings, and instructions.

2. He begins by saying, "What the law could not do..." There is something the law could not do, and that was remove sin and give you perfect righteousness. Now, the law is perfect (Psalm 19:7) and it shows you want sin is, it reveals to you your sin, but it doesn't remove your sin.

3. Think about a mirror. A mirror shows you your hair is a mess, or the dirt on your face, or how skinny or not so skinny you look in that outfit. But that mirror doesn't fix your hair or take the dirt off your face does it?

4. Does that mean the mirror is useless? Well of course not, and Paul is not being critical of Yahweh's law here. He is simply saying that the law was limited because of our flesh. Those in the flesh cannot obey the law, and here's the problem. We are all in the flesh. We are all natural people with fleshly desires and inclinations. We have all fallen short from the perfect glory of the Almighty.

5. So, what's the contrast then? What the law could not do - God did. The law that God gave revealed our sin, but could not remove our sin, and what the law could not do, Yahweh did do. He condemned sin in the flesh.

a. Verse 3 tells us he did this by sending his own Son in flesh like ours under sins domain.

b. The KJV puts this as "God sending His own Son in the LIKENESS of sinful flesh." This word "likeness" is there in the Greek text and it means a resemblance, and Yeshua did resemble our sinful flesh. He was a human that was born, lived, cried, hurt,

bled and died. He's like our humanity in every way except one - He lived without sinning; He never transgressed His Father's law.

c. Now, some may mock at this idea. Some may think there's no way, you mean to tell me He didn't ever violate Torah? Well that's what the Bible says - you can accept it and place your hope in the Savior, or you can reject it and be damned.

d. Hebrews 4:15 says that He was tested in every way as we are, but then it adds, "yet without sin." 2 Corinthians 5:21 says "he did not know sin." 1 Peter 2:22 says "he did not commit sin," and that is a quote from the LXX of Isaiah 53:9 where we are told that he practiced no iniquity.

e. You need to be thankful for this because it allows for the latter portion of Romans 8:3 where we are told that Messiah is a sin offering. See, he could not be a sin offering if he was blemished. All the sacrificial animals that pre-figured Messiah had to be *tamiym* - complete, whole, without blemish. They could not be sick, torn, etc. or else they would not be acceptable.

f. The only way Yeshua could have been a sin offering is if he himself was without sin. He then qualified as the offering. He then could lawfully take upon Himself the penalty of you and I as our substitute.

6. Yahweh did what the law could not do. What did Yahweh do? He sent His very own Son. Did you know that Yahweh has a Son? He really does have a Son, and He sent His very own Son in flesh like ours, to condemn sin and His Son was a sin offering on our behalf.

D. Verse 4

1. This verse says that Yahweh did this "in order that the laws requirement would be accomplished in us." Us here is the saints.

2. Now, I believe there are two things going on in verse 4.

3. The first has to do with imputation. God did what the law could not do. The law could never perfect us or save us or remove our sin. It does show us our sin, but it doesn't remove sin or save us from our sin.

4. Yeshua lived perfectly and then died as a substitute in our place, on our behalf. He took the punishment for sin from a holy God. Yeshua wasn't worried about the Roman punishment when he was tortured, he knew what

he was doing was receiving the wrath of Yahweh for those who put their faith in Him.

5. The reason no condemnation exists for you who are in Messiah is because Messiah has already received the full brunt of condemnation for you. He drank Yahweh's wrath in your place, and He was able to take your place because He perfectly obeyed Torah.

6. The righteousness of the law is first fulfilled in you through Messiah. You have been placed into Him and thus He is your righteousness, and He is your sin offering, He is the reason you will not be damned. Always remember, what the law could not do, God did in sending His Son.

7. Next the verse discusses sanctification. This is not to be confused with what I just explained. Sanctification is not why you are saved; it is not why you are not condemned. Sanctification is simply the out-flowing or product of you being in Messiah.

8. You see how verse 4 ends by saying "who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit"? Those who are in Messiah, and have been set free from the law of sin and death, no longer walk or live a lifestyle according to the fleshly desires. They are new creatures, they think, talk, and act differently than those who live according to the flesh.

III. Romans 8:5-8

A. Verse 5

1. Here the flesh is equal to sin and death, but the spirit is equal to obedience and life.
2. Being led by the Spirit doesn't mean that you have forgotten the law and you're just waiting on God's voice to tell you what street to take or something like that. "*I'm led by the Spirit!*"
3. Being led by the Spirit is God changing you, giving you a new mind, heart, will, state of life, etc. He blesses you through His Son, to be a new creation.
4. You think about spiritual things, rather than fleshly, sinful things. You think about lawful things, rather than carnal, unlawful things. The law begins to be fulfilled in your personal life because God is conforming you to the image of His dear Son.

B. Verse 6

1. Notice the contrast

a. flesh - death

b. spirit - life, peace

2. The mind set on the flesh is outside Messiah. The mind set on the spirit is IN Messiah. Remember, that's the difference, that's the starting point. You don't just have a spiritual mind automatically. You only have a spiritual mind because you've been placed in Messiah.

C. Verse 7

1. The fleshly mind is hostile to God.

2. This word refers to an enemy or hatred or opposition. The fleshly mind hates God.

3. This is why we can understand atheists who speak out so strongly against Yahweh God. They hate Him.

4. Let me go a bit further. Many people hate the God of Scripture when He is explained properly to them. They may go to church but they may just be serving the God that has been made up to fit their carnal view of God.

5. All unsaved people hate Yahweh God. And here's a newsflash, Yahweh hates those who hate Him. I know you've been told that Yahweh doesn't hate anyone, but that's just a big, fat lie that people have been told and if a lie is said long enough and loud enough people will begin to believe it.

6. Psalm 5:5 says that Yahweh hates the people who are unrepentant sinners. Psalm 11:5 says He hates the lover of violence, and in Malachi 1:2-3 He says, "I loved Jacob, but Hated Esau." Deuteronomy 7:10 says that He directly pays back and destroys those who hate Him. Yes... here's the God of Scripture that nobody knows about because preachers don't preach the Bible, they preach what they want to preach, what tickles the ears of the people.

7. According to Romans 8:7 there is a war going on between people who live according to flesh and Yahweh. There is enmity there. That enmity can only be diffused by grace through faith in Messiah. Unless Yahweh has grace on your life, and you place your complete trust in His Son, you will be condemned. It doesn't matter how Jewish, Islamic or even Christian you claim to be. If you are not IN MESSIAH you are damned.

8. And Yahweh must have grace on you, because as long as you have a fleshly mind rather than a spiritual mind, you cannot submit yourself to His law. Look at Romans 8:7 again - it is unable to do so.

D. Verse 8

1. This verse echoes verse 7. Those who are of the fleshly mind cannot please God.
2. It's an impossibility to please God with a fleshly mind, and here's the thing. We all at one time had a fleshly mind. Some of you sitting here today may still have a fleshly mind.
3. If your thoughts and actions are not centered around the law of God; if you are not constantly thinking upon and doing the law of God. If you are not constantly asking "does this please God?" then you are an enemy to God, you hate God and He will hate you all the way to hell unless by His grace you repent of your sins and place your trust in His Son.
4. At that point, there is no condemnation for you, because you are in Yeshua.
5. And that's what verse 9 begins to introduce (we'll pick it up next week) - you however are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

IV. If you do not know Yahweh today, if you do not believe He sent His Son to live and die for you today, then I beg of you. Throw yourself upon the Messiah, ask Yahweh to forgive you of your sins and remove His wrath from you. Repent today. Don't go another day hating Yahweh.

Indwelt by Two Beings

Romans 8 - Pt. 2

Romans 8:7-11 (*Exegesis on Verses 9-11*)

I. Introduction

- A. I just read verses 7-11 of Romans 8, but I will exegete verses 9-11 in this sermon.
- B. I wanted to read verses 7-8 to put us back into the mindset of where we left off last week.
 1. In verse 7 we learned that the fleshly mind is at war with God, hates God, and cannot (*does not have the ability to*) submit itself to God's law.

2. This is why the truth in verse 8 is so relevant. Those in the flesh, cannot please God. (Their "good deeds" are really "bad good" because they aren't doing it unto the glory of Yahweh.) 1 Corinthians 2:14 - "But the unbeliever does not welcome what comes from God's Spirit, because it is foolishness to him; he is not able to understand it since it is evaluated spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can evaluate everything..."

3. Anyone who has not been "born of the Spirit" (Yeshua to Nicodemus in John 3) does not have the ability within themselves to please God. They will never please God in the flesh. They may try, they may come to church for a while, they may even open their Bible for a few weeks or months and read a little, but unless the supernatural power of the work of the Spirit on their hearts takes place they will remain "in the flesh," and not "in the Spirit." They may change a bit outwardly, but they are the same carnal nature inwardly.

4. If you will remember back to last week, this is why I centered in so heavily on the work of Messiah for us. Remember, what the law could not do Yahweh did in sending His own Son.

5. When we are placed in Messiah by the Father (the Father gives us to the Son - Jn. 6:37) it is equivalent with saying that we've been born of the Spirit. And that brings us to verse 9...

II. Romans 8:9

A. Verse 9a: "You however are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit..."

B. Who is this "you," he is speaking about? (In contrast to "those" in verse 5.) Now the entire assembly at Rome was the intended audience for Paul (Romans 1:7), but is every single saint in Rome the "you" here in Romans 8:9?

1. Well... yes... and no.

2. His letter was intended for every saint in Rome, saint literally means holy one and would refer to those born of the Spirit.

3. However, this does not mean that everyone sitting in the gathering of the congregation at Rome was a saint. They might profess to be because they are physically there at the congregation, but that does not mean that they are spiritually a saint.

4. Never forget: there are professors and then there are possessors. You have people that claim to be saints and then you have real saints. It's like that in every assembly.

5. Never think that just because you are here at Sabbath service that this automatically makes you a saint. Never think that just because you prayed a prayer or have been baptized that this makes you a saint. Saints are recognized by the fruit they bear. Saints are those who the Spirit indwells and thus they are changed creatures.

6. I have observed over the years people who have tried to serve Yahweh in their own power. I remember a friend of mine growing up who I prayed with for quite some time after a church service... (talk about this) but I know now that the Father didn't give him to the Son. I know this because if it really was a work of God in his heart that day, it would have stayed. It did not stay, it rather withered away; thus it was of man. Yeshua said in Matthew 15:13, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be rooted up."

7. See, you don't get or pursue the Spirit. The Spirit gets or pursues you. You don't find the Spirit, the Spirit is not lost. The Spirit finds you because you are lost and you don't have a clue about the Spirit. You don't deliver the Spirit the Spirit delivers you. You don't save yourself, the Spirit saves you. And **YOU CAN'T CHANGE YOURSELF - THE SPIRIT CHANGES YOU!**

C. So... Paul does here refer to the spirit-filled saints.

1. He tells them they are not in the flesh but rather in the Spirit.

2. They are Spirit filled.

3. He is contrasting the saints with the fleshly, carnal mind mentioned back in verses 7-8. Whereas the fleshly mind is at war with Yahweh, the saints at Rome were not in the fleshly mind, they had been placed by Yahweh into the spiritual mind of life and peace. They had been regenerated by the power of the Most High.

4. Contrast the spirit-filled believers with those mentioned in Jude 18-19 - "...In the end time there will be scoffers walking according to their own ungodly desires. These people create divisions and are merely natural (which means fleshly, carnal...)" and then it says, "NOT HAVING THE SPIRIT."

5. You have two groups of people in the world. Those who are spirit filled and those who are not. Every true believer is filled with the Holy Spirit. This Spirit leads them and guides them in the paths of righteousness. Those who have not the Spirit are only doing what is natural to them. They are steeped in sin because they love sin and hate God.

III. Romans 8:9

A. Verse 9b: "...since the Spirit of God lives in you."

1. Now, should this first word be "since" or "if"?
2. The HCSB translates it "since" while the KJV translates in "if so be." The NASB has "if indeed," while the ESV has "if in fact."
3. The Greek could translate into English either way. If it is to be "since" then the point is the people in Romans 8:9 are "in the Spirit BECAUSE the Spirit of God really does dwell in them."
4. If it is to be translated "if" the understanding is that they are only in the Spirit "IF the Spirit of God indwells them."
5. Either way will work in context and neither detracts from the intent of the chapter as a whole.

B. Recognize here too that the contrast is between a saved and lost person. Someone that has spiritual life and someone that doesn't. This is not speaking of a saved persons battle between the desires of their humanity verses the desires of their new spiritual person. This is a real battle, but this here is instead speaking of people who are no longer in the fleshly, carnal nature anymore, but operate by the Spirit's law of life (vs. 2). There is no excuse for a believer - FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT - to justify sin by saying they are just a fleshly Christian.

C. Next we see in this verse that for the regenerated person, the Spirit of God actually lives in them. Believers are indwelt with a measure of the God's power, action, in this case the power of regeneration. He gives us a new heart and a new mind and with this gift we actually do have the ability to obey the law. But why do we have the ability? It is because God first regenerated us, or gave us His Spirit.

IV. Romans 8:9c

A. Verse 9c: "But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

B. Now, just before this Paul tells us that we are "in the spirit, if the SPIRIT OF GOD lives in us." Now he is telling us that we do not belong to Christ if we do not have the SPIRIT OF CHRIST in us. So... which Spirit do we have living in us?

1. Well, there are a couple of ways to understand this verse.

2. One is that the "Spirit of God" could be called the "Spirit of Christ" because Christ was fully indwelt with the Spirit of God himself. John 3:33-34 tells us that God gave the Spirit to Christ without measure. Therefore the "Spirit of Christ" and "Spirit of God" would be one and the same.

3. We could take it like this though. The word "spirit" is sometimes used to denote the mentality or mindset of an individual; their ways or manners. In other words if we meet someone humble we may say, "he has a good spirit about him," or "they're in good spirit today." The apostle could be equating the lifestyle or mindset of Christ with the Spirit of God.

4. I do know this though, the Bible teaches that people "born of the Spirit" are indwelt by two beings - the Father and the Son. We need to fall in love with the number 2, just as much as we are in love with the number 1. I love to quote the Shema about the One God. But I also love quoting the passages that refer to two beings: God and His Son.

a. JOHN 8:17-18 - "Even in your law it is written that the witness of two men is valid. I am the One who testifies about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

b. JOHN 14:23 - "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

c. Notice that "WE" and "OUR" in John 14:23. These are plural pronouns. The Father and the Son are said to indwell genuine believers, so it is not something that Paul is making up in Romans 8:9. Believers are indwelt with the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ.

C. Notice then the end of 9c where it says that if a person does not have the Spirit of Christ they do not belong to Him.

1. This goes back to the exclusivist mentality of Yeshua I mentioned last week. There are people in Messiah, but there are people outside of Messiah too.

2. Everybody does not make it to the kingdom. It seems like every time I hear about or see a funeral taking place the person that has died has gone into glory. Isn't there anyone who is not going to make it?

2. There is no in between. There is not a third group that are (1) half in and half out or either (2) in one day and out the next. You're either in or out. You either have Messiah or you do not have Messiah. See all in Messiah

will be made alive, but the operative word here is not ALL but rather the word IN.

V. Romans 8:10 - "Now if Christ is in you the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of righteousness."

A. Paul now says "if Christ is in you" which goes back to what I just mentioned in John 14:23. Yeshua says "WE" the Father and Son will come and make our home with the believer.

B. Paul then mentions that the body of the believer is still dead because of sin. The point here is that even though a person is in Christ that doesn't mean that they no longer have a fleshly body. Their body will still undergo death. Regeneration does not mean no death for the believer. Our flesh bodies must die because they are humanity. We are actually all dying right now, it's just that some of us are further away based upon our age. I'm closer to death than David is, but we are both decaying. We are in corruptible, mortal flesh; terrestrial bodies.

C. Paul's point here is that although the body is dead because of sin (ESV uses "although.") the spirit is alive or life because of righteousness.

1. There is a new nature within the believer. This new nature is incarcerated inside of this *adamic man*, but it ensures me the hope of a new body, and immortal body.

2. And it allows me in the here and now to be able to make proper choices, and to do so because I want to glorify the Creator. My new heart, new mind, righteous way of thinking, is based upon me being filled with the Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, or Christ.

VI. Romans 8:11 - "And if the Spirit of Him who raised Yeshua from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you."

A. The Spirit that lives within us is the Spirit of Him who raised Yeshua from the dead. This is most definitely the Holy Spirit of God the Father.

B. Paul is saying here that The Spirit of Yahweh raised Yeshua from the dead... (I digress) and this has to mean that Yeshua really died - not part of him, not just the outer shell of him, but all of him. If he did not really die then he did not pay the penalty for sin and the work of the Spirit to resurrect him was just a hoax because you don't have to resurrect someone who really didn't die.

C. OK... if the Spirit of God indwells you, the same Spirit that raised Yeshua from the dead, this means that this Spirit will also bring your mortal body to life one day.

1. So, Paul is telling us that the Spirit's work in our life is not just in the here and now (though it is) but it is also in the hereafter.
2. The Spirit empowers us to live lives of holiness, doing the actions that please Yahweh, right now.
3. The Spirit also gives us assurance of a resurrection one day. An immortal body. We are sown a natural body, but are raised a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15). The best way to understand this is to look at Yeshua. He was a mortal man before his death and resurrection, but at his resurrection he became immortal. Yahweh raised him to immortality.
4. And immortality is what the believer seeks. Romans 2:7 says that eternal life will be given to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality - which means no more corruptibility. Life eternal.

VII. Conclusion

- A. We will see more of the work of the Spirit in the next message but for now we have seen some aspects of the work of the Spirit.
- B. We must be careful not to attribute certain activities to the Holy Spirit that are not really of the Spirit.
 1. People may tell you that the Spirit "slays people" or makes people dance around uncontrollably.
 2. Others may say the Spirit makes you speak in some type of gibberish.
 3. I remember one person in my life thinking he "got the Spirit" because he violently shook his head and spun around in circles.
 4. Shouldn't we read the Bible to see what the work of the Spirit is? Isn't this a better method than just believing something is "of the Spirit" because a person says it is?
 5. It is dishonoring to Yahweh to say that something not found in Scripture is actually "of His Spirit."
- C. What we have seen so far in Romans 8 is that the Spirit...
 1. Releases a person from the natural, carnal mind that cannot please God.

2. It empowers a person to live a righteous life. The righteousness of the law can be fulfilled in their sanctified life because they are led by the Spirit.

3. And lastly we've seen that a work of the Spirit is found in a physical resurrection, just like Yeshua was resurrected. We have the promise, those of us who are indwelt by the spirit, that we will be raised to immortality in the future.

You Don't Owe the Flesh Anything

Romans 8 - Pt. 3

Read: Romans 8:9-13

You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Yeshua from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you. So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

I. Introduction - Where we Ended Last Week...

A. We ended up last week dealing with the Spirit's work in the life of the believer.

1. All true believers are indwelt with a measure of Yahweh's Spirit.

2. The indwelling of the Spirit does things, it accomplishes things in the life of the believer.

B. The Spirit does this...

1. It releases a person from the natural, carnal mind that cannot please God.

2. It empowers a person to live a righteous life, i.e. a life of obedience to Yahweh's law.

3. It gives us the promise of resurrection. Just as the Spirit of the Father raised Yeshua from the dead, we too have that promise if we are indwelt by the Spirit.

C. Here are 3 things the Spirit actually does, but there are a number of activities attributed to the Spirit today that you just will not find in the Bible. Quit saying that something is "of the Spirit" just because, and start saying that something is "of the Spirit" if and only if it aligns with the SWORD of the Spirit. We'll get to this shortly.

II. Romans 8:12-13a - So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, for if you live according to the flesh you are going to die.

A. Paul here is speaking to the congregation at Rome. Remember, Paul addresses them as brothers, but Paul does not know infallibly if they are born of the Spirit or not, so he writes in the fashion of the visible brethren.

B. He tells them that because they've been born again they have no obligation to the flesh.

1. And I tell you all today... you don't owe the flesh ANYTHING.
2. Don't pay anything to the flesh. You're paying somebody that you don't owe when you do this. The flesh didn't regenerate you, the flesh is dead. Your carnal mind and carnal ways did not bring you anything but grief and hardship, so why are you making payments to someone you don't owe anything to?
3. It's like renting a house and instead of paying the landlord you pay the cashier at Publix. You don't owe the cashier at Publix rent. The cashier isn't the person you rented the house from. You owe the landlord, and in this case your Lord is Yeshua the Messiah. He purchased with His perfect life, with His blood, so why are paying into the flesh?
4. If you make payments to the flesh you will build up the flesh. The flesh will get bigger and stronger because it is being well fed. What you must do is KILL the flesh. STARVE the flesh. Don't pay one single penny to the flesh.
5. If you starve someone long enough they will eventually die, and your flesh will be starved to death if you are truly one of Yahweh's sheep.
6. But guess what? If you do not kill sin, sin will kill you. A Puritan by the name of John Owen (1600's) stated it like this: "*Be killing sin or it will be killing you.*" He recognized that if we did not look at our Christian life as an all out WAR against sin, sin would win the battle. Sin would kill us.
7. If you continue to feed that fleshly monster it will grow bigger and stronger and bigger and stronger. It will kill you.

C. Isn't this exactly what Romans 8:13a says? It says that if you live according to the flesh you are going to DIE, and that's not just talking about die of this body. Everyone dies of this body, even Yeshua. This death in context is in reference to the second death.

1. If you pay into the flesh. If you keep giving and giving and giving the flesh your rent money - you are going to DIE and not LIVE.
2. Listen to me carefully. There is no resurrection for those who partake of the second death. Praise be to Yahweh that we can be raised from the first death to immortality, but this is not the case with the second death which is the lake of fire.
3. The lake of fire is not a refiners fire - the lake of fire is a fire that burns up the chaff and leaves nothing - NOTHING. The wheat is gathered into the barn, but the chaff is burned with unquenchable fire.
4. And you will be burned up completely - utterly destroyed - you will DIE, if you live according to the flesh. If you just go about your lawless ways and care less about the Sovereign Yahweh you are going to DIE.

III. Romans 8:13b - But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

A. Now... here is the contrast with those who die. There is a group of people that will live. And once again, just as DIE doesn't mean die of this body, LIVE doesn't mean live right now. Everyone alive is alive right now. This LIVE means live forever - without end.

B. But, how does this LIFE come about?

1. Putting to death - KILLING - the deeds of the body.
2. But, according to the text you are not doing this killing by yourself. It's not being done because your just an ascetic or something like that. It's putting to death the deeds of the body BY THE SPIRIT.

C. So we come to a very important point in the lesson today. What does it mean to kill the deeds of the flesh BY THE SPIRIT?

1. Look back with me to Romans 8:5 - "For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit."
2. You see those words "think about" in this verse? The KJV uses the phrase "do mind" and the NASB uses the phrase "set their minds."

3. The Greek word here is "*phroneo*" literally meaning *to exercise the mind, to think, or to plan*.

4. So Romans 8:5 is telling us that those who LIVE according to the flesh exercise their mind on lawless things. However - those who LIVE according to the spirit exercise their mind on lawful things.

5. How do you kill the deeds of the flesh by the spirit? It begins with exercising your mind - KEEPING YOUR MIND BUSY - with spiritual, i.e. lawful things.

6. Is it any coincidence that Ephesians 6 calls the WORD OF YAHWEH the SWORD OF THE SPIRIT?

7. You have to take this sword and kill your sin. Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart."

- a. You take the sword and kill dishonor towards parents.
- b. You take the sword and kill covetousness, greed, pride...
- c. You take the sword and kill sexual immorality, even the thought of sexual immorality. You kill adultery, fornication, homosexuality, etc.
- d. You take the sword and kill a desire to blend in with worldly, unlawful ways - (lifestyle, dress, speech, etc.)
- e. You take the sword and kill Sabbath breaking or New Moon breaking. You slay it with the sword of the spirit.
- f. You take the sword and kill hatred in your heart.
- g. You take the sword and kill a lying tongue; you slay a false witness.

8. But you must SET YOUR MIND on the SWORD of the SPIRIT. You have to keep your mind busy with the Spiritual.

- a. This is why people who show up for church once a week and then wait an entire week before they open their Bible back up or pray, or sing praises, or meditate, or... THINK about Scripture -

will never kill the deeds of the flesh. They never will. They'll keep paying debts to the flesh.

b. Who do you think you are fooling? Surely you realize that Yahweh knows your heart? Listen brothers and sisters, Yeshua says in Matthew 15:18-20a - "But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this defiles a man. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, blasphemies. These are the things that defile a man..." Yes, Yahweh knows your heart and you are not fooling Him. He's calling you to repent of your wickedness. We read Hebrews 4:12 about the sharp word of Yahweh. Do you know what Hebrews 4:13 says? "No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account."

c. This is why it takes the supernatural power of Yahweh for a person to be delivered. Man's heart is evil, it must be changed, it must be made new. You must be given the Spirit FIRST, before you will even have any desire to do Yah's will found in His law.

d. You can't do it though if you don't possess the Spirit. You can't put to death the deeds of the body by the flesh. It can only be done by the Spirit.

D. So, again, people ask me "Brother Matthew, how do I live according to the Spirit." Well... you've got to take the sword of the spirit and you must now how to wield the sword properly.

1. I told someone the other day that in order to win spiritual battles you have to not only play defense but also offense.

2. So often we have people push us back into a corner and say, "What about this, what about this, what about this..." And we play constant defense.

3. We must learn to play offense and present a positive declaration, but in order to play proper offense you have to know the play book. You will never defeat the flesh without knowing how to wield the sword.

4. Sin will kill you every time and you will find yourself paying debts to the flesh.

5. So, you need to DEVOUR this book. You need to know it frontwards, backwards, sideways, every way it can possibly be known. And when you're not reading it you need to be thinking about it, setting your mind upon it, exercising your spiritual muscles.

- a. Every time I pass LA Fitness in Conyers it is packed - all operating hours.
- b. 1 Timothy 4:7-8 - "Rather, train yourself in godliness, for the training of the body has a limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."
- c. I remember shooting free throws when I was a child. I practiced, practiced, practiced, and practiced more and more. And you know what - I got pretty good at shooting free throws.
- d. People tell me, "Matthew, I just don't get it. I read and I can't understand the Bible."
- e. Two things...
 - Number one you may not be saved, cry out to Yahweh to save your soul, repent of your sins, trust in His Son and be baptized into Yeshua calling upon the name of Yahweh and then don't come and ask me or any other preacher if your saved; you go ask Yahweh and don't stop asking Him until His Spirit bears witness with your Spirit, and then continue to test yourself to see whether you are in the faith.
 - Number two, if you are saved the reason you aren't understanding may be because you're not exercising your mind. Sometimes I don't understand either the first time I read, but I read it over and over and over and over, and then I meditate on it constantly and then I go back and read it again, and study some more and then go ask other brothers that study. Then you know what happens? That spiritual exercise leads to me killing the deeds of the flesh. I learn through perfect practice to wield that sword skillfully. I, through the Spirit, kill sin, and it feels so good when I'm not in bondage to that sin any longer!
- f. You know, you can know something for a brief of period of time. I remember doing "cram studies" sometimes in high school. If you repeated an answer to a question over and over again the night before a test you'd get the answer right. The problem is taking that same test a year later without studying you will get the answer wrong.

IV. Conclusion

A. What we've seen in this lesson is that being led by the Spirit means being led towards obedience to Scripture. Killing sin by exercising your mind on the things of the Spirit, i.e. the SWORD of the Spirit.

B. Being led by the Spirit doesn't mean...

1. You look at the Bible like a crystal ball
2. You close your eyes, open the Bible and place your finger on a verse
3. You ask God to show you which job to take
4. You turn around vociferously in a praise service

C. Being led by the Spirit means you are exercising your mind on Scripture. Because (1) you've been born of the Spirit and (2) you know Scripture so well, you can put to death the deeds of the body. You can LIVE instead of DIE.

So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Adoption = Children = Heirs

Romans 8 - Pt. 4

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brothers, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, for if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs —heirs of God and coheirs with Christ —seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

I. Last Week...

A. We spoke about our obligation, our debt. We do have an obligation as believers, but that obligation is not to the flesh, but to the Spirit.

B. Anyone who continues to live according to the flesh will die. I didn't comment on this too much last week but let me say now that I believe Romans 8:13a is a reference to people who just profess the faith, while Romans 8:13b is a reference to people who truly have been made new by the power or Spirit of Yahweh. Once again there is professors and possessors.

1. Remember the contrast.
2. One group will die (eternal death)
3. One group will live (eternal life)

II. Romans 8:14 - "All those led by God's Spirit are God's sons."

A. The first thing I want to focus on here is the word "led." What does Paul mean here when he says, "All those led..."?

1. Based on everything he's written thus far that we've covered he is talking about being directed or guided by. In other words the Spirit of Yahweh is leading you and you are following.
2. Remember last week how we put to death the deeds of the body? We do it "by the Spirit." The Spirit is always in control, and we are the ones following.
3. Who leads you is who you follow. And this speaks of who leads you 7 days a week.

B. And this brings us to the concluding point of this verse. In this context, in the biblical context, whomever you follow is who you are the child of.

1. If Yahweh's Spirit is leading you and you are following in His ways - the ways that the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12) teaches. This means you are actually His child.
2. See, the Spirit of Yahweh has birthed you. *By natural birth you are a son or daughter of your natural parents. They teach, train, and guide you and you follow in their footsteps. Children generally turn out like their parents.
3. Yahweh also births His children. It's called being born of the Spirit. That's how Yeshua termed it in John 3 when talking to Nicodemus. It is a spiritual birth. You are not alive in this way until this birth takes place, just like you are not alive naturally until your natural birth takes place. In one case you are (1) not alive naturally, and in the other you are (2) not alive spiritually.
4. This is why the emphasis in Scripture is on the work of Yahweh's spirit, and this needs to be where we put the emphasis. When Yahweh births a man spiritually, he is not yet alive spiritually. He is dead, and has to be birthed. Only then can he follow where the Spirit leads. Only then can he be called a son of God.

C. Take note that this verse falls right on the heels of the two verses we went over last week. Putting to death the deeds of the flesh is in exact formation with being led by the Spirit.

1. You can know that Yahweh is your Father and you are His child by the activity that goes on in your life. And yes, this activity is obedience to the your Father's instruction, i.e. the Torah.

2. I want to make it extra clear though that this activity is not what makes you the child of Yahweh. That's done solely by the Spirit. The activity is what gives evidence of who you really are.

III. Romans 8:15 - "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

A. When Yahweh birthed you by His Spirit, it was not a birth that enslaved you.

1. Now there is actually another contrast going on here between those in the flesh and those in the Spirit. Paul's been contrasting this for the last 13 verses.

2. In this context, there are only two types of people in the world. Those who are enslaved to sin, the flesh, the devil, etc. versus those who are set free by Yahweh, or Yeshua, or the Spirit, etc.

a. John 8:34-36 - "Yeshua responded, "I assure you: Everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin. A slave does not remain in the household forever, but a son does remain forever. Therefore, if the Son sets you free, you really will be free."

b. You are either one or the other person. Some may ask, "Well if you are set free by the Son (i.e. by the Spirit) then aren't you under obligation to live in accordance with the ways of Yahweh?" The answer is yes, you are free from sin and in one sense enslaved to Yahweh. Romans 6:16 - "Don't you know that if you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of that one you obey - either of sin leading to death or of obedience leading to righteousness?"

B. The key here though is that when you were born of the Spirit you did not receive a Spirit of slavery, but rather of adoption. The contrast is being enslaved as a slave or being adopted and thus a child, a son or daughter.

1. When Yahweh gives you spiritual life, He doesn't drag you kicking and screaming to come follow Him.

2. It's not as though you are hollering the whole time, "I don't want to go!" but he drags you to Him whether you like it or not. That's not biblical.

3. This is how Scripture teaches...

a. You're dead spiritually. You don't want to follow Yahweh, and as a matter of fact you can't. We learned that back in Romans 8:5-7, and Yeshua taught the same thing in John 6:44.

b. Yahweh grants you mercy (He doesn't give you what you deserve - death) and grace (He gives you what you don't deserve - life).

c. He births you by His Spirit and this is called here in Romans 8:15 the Spirit of adoption.

d. When Yahweh gives you new life you now WANT to come to Him. Your desires are spiritual, because you're not just born of the flesh anymore. He births you first and then you have the desire to believe and obey.

e. Ezekiel 36:26-27 "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place My Spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe My ordinances."

f. See, the Spirit is not in contrast to the law (as many preachers would have you to believe). The Spirit rather makes obedience to the law possible. The contrast is instead Spirit led obedience vs. flesh led disobedience.

4. The Spirit of adoption places you into Yahweh's family. You don't look at Yahweh like a dictator, you look at Him like a loving Father, and this is what the last part of verse 15 says.

C. Because of our adoption we cry out "Abba, Father!"

1. We as children recognize our direction, our leading, our guidance is coming from our Father. Our Father would not lead us wrong. He is protecting us.

2. A spirit of slavery would produce fear, and we must be careful here because there is a sense in which we ARE NOT to fear Yahweh. Now, I'm not going against all the Scriptures that teach to fear Him. We should fear Him as a loving Father, but not as a task master. Remember, Romans 8:15 says we were not given a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. We fear Yahweh only as a loving Father, not as some kind of despot that

wants to bring harm on us. We are his children now not and not just slaves. We do serve Him, but we serve Him as children serve their parents.

3. See, the word adoption here carries with it the meaning of what we think of when we speak the word adoption.

a. The Greek word for son is *huios* and the Greek word for adoption is *huiiothesia*. You can hear that *huios* is the root for the word adoption in Greek. The word adoption literally means the "placing of a son."

b. It is where a person who is not a biological child of one performing the adoption is brought into a new family relationship and thereby has the rights and property of the family conferred upon them.

c. See, in reality Yahweh has one, unique son. Yeshua is called the only begotten Son more than once in the Bible. However, we become sons of Yahweh by adoption, and thus brothers and sister of Yeshua - more on this later.

4. So we can cry out to Yahweh "Abba - or Father."

a. Why two terms here? One is stemming from Hebrew-Aramaic and the other from Greek.

b. Well, first of all I personally feels this gives internal evidence that the book of Romans was originally written in Greek. And this shouldn't surprise us (LXX, common language, Greek speaking audience, etc.) For Paul to insert a Hebrew-Aramaic word in his letter to make a point shows that the letter was not originally written in Hebrew. I could be wrong, but that's what I'm seeing right now.

c. Secondly, the term Abba must have been a term that was very well known amongst people in that area of the world. Sometimes, even though we do our best to translate words from one language to another we still fall short because the 2nd language may not be fully capable of giving us a word that completely carries over the deep meaning of the 1st language.

d. This may be why Paul says here "Abba, Pater." Pater is the Greek word for Father. It may be how to translate Father from Aramaic to Greek, but Paul writes in a transliteration of the Aramaic for emphasis on just how much the word Father should mean to us.

e. It is true that Abba can be translated as "Daddy" into English, but I think sometimes this is mentioned too lightly. We don't need to think of this as a childish address, but rather as an address to someone we love dearly that is our protector, provider. It's like when David says out of the blue, "Do you know what Daddy?" and I respond "What son?" thinking he is going to tell me about his new race cars. Then he looks at me and grins, "I wuv you..." It melts my heart.

IV. Romans 8:16 - "The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children."

A. Now, this is an important verse because it is a sentence that speaks to how we can have assurance of our salvation. There are basically 4 types of people in the world in this context.

1. Some are not saved and they know it.
2. Some have full assurance of salvation and really are saved.
3. Some people are truly saved, but don't have full assurance.
4. Some people have full assurance, but they are not saved. Their assurance is false.

B. Paul here writes to the Romans and tells them that for a person who has been born of the Spirit, i.e. the Holy Spirit - the Spirit Himself (which is the Spirit of Yahweh) testifies together with our Spirit that we belong to Him. We are truly His children.

1. Paul here is not talking about warm fuzzies.
2. Paul here is not going crazy on us and teaching that we just feel something in our heart.
3. Remember last week. The sure method of determining the leading of the Spirit is by continuously consulting the sword of the Spirit. The Spirit of Yahweh is what moved upon the authors of Scripture to pen down Scripture. Therefore as we read Scripture, the Spirit testifies together with our own human spirit. We see our life conforming to the sword of the Spirit and we can know that we are Yahweh's children.
4. So we see things in Scripture like...
 - a. How do we feel about our sin?
 - b. Do we walk, live a lifestyle of righteousness?

c. Do we center our life around Yahweh's plan?

d. Do we love the brethren?

e. Do we have love for Holy Scripture?

f. Do we love Yahweh and His Son?

5. We see all of these topics when reading Scripture and when we can go down through the list and pass the test we can know for sure that we have been born of the Spirit.

V. Romans 8:17 - "And if children, also heirs - heirs of God and coheirs with Christ - seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

A. So, we have seen that born of the Spirit means a Spirit of adoption, which in turn means we are the children of Yahweh, which in turn means we are heirs of Yahweh.

1. The word heir means someone who inherits possessions.

2. If you are a Child of the King, then you will inherit that which belongs to the King. And that means any benefits of son-ship now, but most importantly that which awaits us. Immortality (eternal life), the new heavens and new earth, complete deliverance from pain, agony, suffering, and death. All that belongs to your Father he will give to you because you are a son or daughter of the King.

B. And notice that while the text says we are heirs of Yahweh it then says that we are co-heirs with the Messiah.

1. Yahweh is your Father and since Yeshua is the only begotten Son of Yahweh and you have been adopted into the family of Yahweh you are a fellow inheritor with Yeshua the Messiah. You are in unity with the unique Son.

2. This again, although not the point of this sermon, shows forth two separate persons of the Father and the Son. We are not co-heirs with Yahweh and we are not heirs of Yeshua.

C. And then we see the end of verse 17 tell us that we must suffer with the Messiah.

1. Now this is why I mentioned earlier that our inheritance from the King is for the majority speaking of the life to come. Verse 17 tells us that before our glorification comes we must suffer in this life with the Messiah.

2. The very popular prosperity gospel teaches now, now, now, now. I want everything now. I'm all about the here and now. We've got a church in town called "in the now." I think what is happening here is a dismissal of having to suffer with Yeshua in this life.

3. This doesn't mean that there aren't people who are blessed materially in this current life. But it does mean that these people, if they are children adopted by Yahweh, recognize that what they have now is temporary, what they have now will vanish away. Their true riches are in the kingdom of heaven. Thus they don't bask in the here and now, and are willing to share in order to help those who are without.

4. See, if we are going to be glorified with our fellow heir, then we are going to have to experience now in our mortal bodies the suffering that he experienced in his mortal body.

5. Don't place your heart in uncertain riches. Don't plan your life for this life. It's not about your best life now, it's really about suffering now so that you can have your best life later.

6. Yeshua was a common man. He was the son of carpenter, he was made fun of, he wore sandals, a common robe, he was spit on, mocked, tortured, and eventually put to death. He suffered for his brothers and sisters. Are you willing to suffer with him?

7. Do you love Yeshua enough to give up your life now in order to be glorified with him? Are you so caught up in your possessions that you're holding on to them with white knuckles because you're afraid of losing what you own?

8. I talked to a sister last week and we rejoiced how that while we may have pain, sorrow, disease, sickness, trials, tribulations, hardships, etc. in this current life, it is absolutely nothing to be compared to the glory that is to come. And that exactly what Paul says at the end of verse 17. If we suffer with him we also will be glorified with him.

9. And I'm not going to go into this next verse in any detail but I just want to read verse 18 to catapult us into next week's study. I ask you to meditate on verses 17-18 all week long. Verse 18 says, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."

10. So I ask you, have you been adopted into the family of Yahweh? Are you His child? Will you inherit His possessions? Is Yeshua your brother? If not repent today; If so rejoice and be thankful for the Spirit of Yahweh that has changed your life.

Suffer Now. Glory Later.

Romans 8 - Pt. 5

Romans 8:17-25

And if children, also heirs —heirs of God and coheirs with Christ —seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility —not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it— in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the first fruits - we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Now in this hope we were saved, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience.

I. We left off last week with an absolutely beautiful picture of our adoption into the family of Yahweh.

- A. Our adoption equals our being Yahweh's children which in turn equals our being the heirs or inheritors of Yahweh as well as heirs of that which Yahweh has to give us - His possessions.
- B. Verse 17 also teaches that we are fellow heirs or co-heirs with our Messiah. He is Yahweh's only begotten (*monogenes*) Son and we are his brothers and sisters seeing we've been adopted into the family.
- C. We ended the message by focusing in on the very last part of verse 17 - "seeing that we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him."
- D. That brings us right up to verse 18, the first verse to look at in this lesson.

II. Romans 8:18 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."

A. Paul is continuing to reflect on what he just wrote in verse 17.

1. Notice that in both sentences he references (1) suffering, and (2) glory.
2. He mentions that sufferings are for this present time and glory is what is going to be revealed.

B. What is Paul referencing here when he mentions suffering? I think there are two primary headings of suffering Paul has in mind, and I want to look at both of them in this lesson.

C. Suffering = Persecution

1. We must remember that Paul's world, the world of those believers living then, was not as accepting of the Messianic faith as our world is today (even though we are losing more and more freedoms...)
2. Even before Paul's conversion to Messiah he was actually heading to Damascus breathing threats and murders against the disciples of Yeshua. He had letters in his hand from the High Priest to imprison anyone he found that belonged to the way of Messiah.
3. Now we know what happened to Saul of Tarsus that day, but his single conversion did not mean there wasn't anyone left that desired to murder all followers of Messiah.
4. In 2 Corinthians 11:23 Paul recounts some of what he went through after turning his life over to believing in the Son of Yahweh. He said he experienced more labors, many more imprisonments and far worse beatings than most, near to the death many times.
5. He goes on in 2 Corinthians 11:24-27 to say, "Five times I received thirty nine lashes from Judahites. Three times I was beaten with rods by the Romans. Once I was stoned by my enemies. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from the heathen, dangers in the city, dangers in the open country, dangers on the sea, and dangers among false brothers; labor and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and lacking clothing. Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my care for all the congregations."

6. This guy went through pure hell on earth, all for the sake of Messiah, and he knew that anyone else who put their trust in the Son of Yahweh would undergo such suffering in this present age. He knew though that to suffer meant that he was following in the footsteps of his Lord. (Mark 8:31 - "Then He (Yeshua) began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, be killed, and rise after three days.")

7. Paul wrote to the Philippians this (Philippians 1:29) - "For it has been given to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for Him." The word given refers to something bestowed upon you, or even to grant as a favor.

8. In 2 Timothy 3:12-13 Paul wrote - "In fact, all those who want to live a godly life in the Messiah Yeshua will be persecuted. Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived."

9. All this should not come as a surprise to the followers of Yeshua. We should know that he taught this would happen. In John 15:18-20 he said - "If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. Remember the word I spoke to you: 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."

10. In John 16:1-4 he continued to speak to his disciples by saying - "I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or Me. But I have told you these things so that when the time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you."

11. All of this suffering under severe persecution is one primary aspect of suffering that Paul was speaking of in Romans 8:17-18. He realized that the believers had to undergo severe suffering even to the point of death. He was encouraging them to take it, recognizing that even though it was extremely difficult to endure it did not compare with the glory that was going to be revealed in the believer.

12. See, not every child of the Father is destined for the exact same life, and that's entirely up to Him. Some of His children He ordains for them to conquer great battles in this life, others he ordains to be killed for His sake. Consider Hebrews 11:32-38 - "And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, administered

justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the raging of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, gained strength after being weak, became mighty in battle, and put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead—they were raised to life again. Some men were tortured, not accepting release, so that they might gain a better resurrection, and others experienced mockings and scourgings, as well as bonds and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawed in two, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and on mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground."

13. Remember the attitude of the three Hebrews in Daniel 3:16-18. Our God will deliver us from your hand Neb, but even if he doesn't we still will not bow down to your image. They realized that it might be Yahweh's will for them to die in the fire, that didn't mean they would stop believing in their Creator.

14. We have been graced by our Creator to live in a country that still allows for the true Biblical faith to be practiced, however you need to realize that this may not always be the case. Our faith, the true authentic Biblical faith in the Father and the Son is coming under attack more and more in America. What was once considered to be the law of the land in the colonies of this nation in the 1600's is now considered to be outdated, primitive, barbaric, and stupid in the eyes of the many anti-christs in our land today.

15. What you need to do is draw close to Yahweh and prepare yourself for persecution. Yahweh may use you to escape the edge of the sword or He might use you to die by the sword. Either way, prepare yourself for battle. I will tell you in a very serious manner that if you are not truly grounded in the sword of the Spirit, you won't last. If you get all bent out shape because someone just speaks something against your faith, then you won't be able to handle it when it comes to chopping your head off because you believe in Yahweh and Yeshua.

B. Suffering = Fallen Creation

1. Romans 8:18-21 - "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children."

2. Now here Paul moves into verses 19 through 21 by speaking of the creation. Notice he says "creation is anticipating" the revealing of Yahweh's children. He also mentions that creation was subjected to futility. Here subjected means to be placed under the rule of and futility is a word that describes vanity or nothingness.

3. Before I explain what this means I want you to see who placed the Creation in subjection to futility. Paul writes that it was placed here not willingly - in other words - not of its own choosing, but rather by HIM who subjected it. Then Paul says that this HIM who subjected it, did so in the hope that this same creation would one day be set free from the bondage of corruption.

4. This could be none other but Yahweh. We might wonder why Yahweh subjected the creation in the first place, but it helps us understand to some degree by reading that in the big plan it was in His design to set the creation free again.

5. Now... why do you think Yahweh subjected the creation to futility? I believe we find the answer by going to Genesis 3. Sin is so heinous in Yahweh's eyes. To transgress His law places us in dis-community with our Creator.

6. Genesis 3:16-21 - "He said to the woman: I will intensify your labor pains; you will bear children in anguish. Your desire will be for your husband, yet he will rule over you. And He said to Adam, "Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'Do not eat from it': The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. You will eat bread by the sweat of your face until you return to the ground, since you were taken from it. For you are dust, and you will return to dust." Adam named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all the living. Yahweh God made clothing out of skins for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them."

7. What we see here is creation being placed under subjection to futility.

III. Romans 8:22-25 - "For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as the first fruits—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. Now in this hope we were saved, yet hope that is seen is not hope, because who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience."

A. Now we must center in on what kind of pain Paul describes all this as - labor pain - which (according my wife) is very intense. But we can rejoice that Paul

describes this pain as labor pain because what comes after labor pains? A new born baby! As difficult as labor is, the product makes us smile and cry tears of joy. This is the illustration that Paul is trying to get us to see here.

- John 16:21 "A woman when she is in labor has sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she delivers the child, she doesn't remember the anguish anymore, because of the joy that a child is born into the world."

B. Paul even goes on to say that those of us who have the Spirit - born of the Spirit groan within ourselves waiting eagerly for our incorruptible bodies.

1. See we experience adoption into Yahweh's family now to some degree, but the indwelling of the Spirit is only the first fruits of what we receive in totality.

2. Our bodies will be changed when we receive full adoption. Redemption of the body means a glorified, immortal, incorruptible body. We will get a body just like Yeshua did after his resurrection.

3. Revelation 21:1-4 - "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea no longer existed. I also saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look! God's dwelling is with humanity, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and Yahweh Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will no longer exist; grief, crying, and pain will exist no longer, because the previous things have passed away."

4. Now, we should be about Kingdom business until our King comes. We should be about kingdom business in the here and now. And we should do everything that He requires out of us in this life, but any teaching that places our hope in this life only is not a biblical teaching. We are living in the temporary now, our hope is what comes at and after the resurrection.

C. And so we end this lesson today with Romans 8:24-25.

1. In this HOPE we were saved. But hope that can be seen is not hope. It is easy to believe in something you can visually see, but if you can see it, touch it, smell it, etc. then is it really hope?

2. No, and this is what Paul is trying to communicate to us.

3. We HOPE for what we don't see, and we wait with eagerness, but we also wait with patience. We are patient, and we endure any suffering

whether it be persecution or whether it be because of our subjection to futility. We endure it because we recognize our glory that is to follow.

4. So then brothers and sisters - "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."

He Helps You by His Spirit

Romans 8 - Pt. 6

Romans 8:26-28

In the same way the Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings. And He who searches the hearts knows the Spirit's mind-set, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose.

I. Introduction

A. We discussed suffering in the last sermon, and in this one we will see Paul introduces an encouraging action in the life of the believer. Specifically the prayer life of the believer.

B. We will also see how Paul begins to "tie the knot" on this section concerning suffering. Through the midst of whatever the follower of Messiah may face in this life, we can be assured that if Yahweh has called us, everything happens for a purpose.

II. Romans 8:26 - "In the same way the Spirit also joins to help in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with unspoken groanings."

A. Here Paul is going back to what he's just written. "In the same way" hearkens back to what he wrote in verses 17-25.

B. We suffer in our humanity, but we are encouraged by the indwelling measure of the Holy Spirit.

1. We know it is the first fruits of a much greater harvest.

2. We know that we will *one day* receive our new body, our incorruptible body.

3. We wait with eagerness, patience, and hope. We can wait in this way because of the gift of the Holy Spirit within us.

C. And so Paul writes that "in the same way" the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness. Weakness here is our human, fallen state.

1. Because of our mortal humanity we don't always know what to pray for.

2. We find ourselves in various situations in life and we read Scripture on a daily basis and meditate upon it, but we are still in this corruptible body and we struggle with how to handle things in prayer.

3. How many know today that we are commanded to pray? We are, and for that reason alone we should go to the Father in prayer.

a. Philippians 4:6 - "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to Yahweh."

b. Psalm 102:17 - "He will pay attention to the prayer of the destitute and will not despise their prayer."

4. Now, while all this is true we have to also recognize that we cannot pray for something that is anti-Scriptural, or in other words anti-Yahweh.

a. I've had someone tell me before when talking to them about the dietary laws, they've said, "I just pray over the pork and ask God to turn it into beef." But what is happening here (if this is actually done by people) is someone is saying a prayer that is anti-Scriptural. It's like praying over your neighbors wife or asking Yahweh to sanctify your stealing.

b. Yahweh will NOT answer these types of prayers... why? Because they are in opposition to His character. They fly in the face of His standard as found in His law.

c. And sometimes people pray things that are outside of the will of Yahweh. This is why I believe that somewhere in all of our prayers we should acknowledge that it is Yahweh's will that we seek. It's perfectly acceptable to pray - perfectly acceptable and commanded, but we should always want the will of Yahweh, as Yeshua when he prayed to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- You learn this more and more as you grow in your Spiritual life. The older you get spiritually you are able to look back on past experiences and see where that you can be thankful for unanswered prayers.

- We shouldn't allow unanswered prayers to discourage us. You know why? Because they are really answered prayers, it's just that we don't always get the answer we want.

d. We can know much about the will of Yahweh by reading Scripture, but we will never know everything about the will of Yahweh, and this is where the Spirit joins in to help us in our weakness.

e. Remember Paul's 3 time prayer in 2 Cor. 12:7-9.

f. In Jeremiah 14, Jeremiah prays for many of those within the House of Judah. What is Yahweh's response? Jeremiah 15:1 - "Then Yahweh said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel should stand before Me, My compassions would not reach out to these people. Send them from My presence, and let them go."

D. We do not know what to pray for, and we seek for Yahweh to have His way in our life, so what happens?

1. Well, if you have the indwelling of the Spirit, that is, if you've been born of the Spirit - the Spirit actually intercedes for you with unspoken groanings.

a. The word intercedes here literally means to pray on your behalf.

b. So what we see in this text is that it is the Spirit inside of you, the Holy Spirit that is praying for you. The text says that this happens with unspoken groanings. What does this mean?

c. Well, this Greek word translated groanings is only used twice in the NT. Once here and once in Acts 7:33-34 - "Then Yahweh said to him (Moses): Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground. I have observed the oppression of My people in Egypt; I have heard their groaning and have come down to rescue them. And now, come, I will send you to Egypt."

d. The word has to do with a groaning or a sigh. It may be an unspeakable noise that finds itself sometimes on the lips of people who are suffering in this life.

e. And this is what Paul is referring to here. He's just explained about suffering before this, and he knows that the believer will have times in his life, weak times, where he just sits back and groans, sighs, just waiting and hoping for the Kingdom. Note in all of this that the Spirit does not take our problems away, or our sufferings away. The Spirit aids us, including Paul.

2. But is this us groaning or the Spirit?

a. In other words is this us in prayer not knowing what to pray for because of our human weakness and we just sigh and groan desiring Yahweh's will?

b. Or, is this groaning metaphorical? Is it the Holy Spirit praying for us? Groaning for us? Is it really unspeakable or unutterable from our human perspective? Remember Paul just talked about creation groaning in Romans 8:22, but that doesn't mean all the creation necessarily makes a sound.

c. It really could go either way here, but whichever way we take it let's not lose sight of the fact that the point is that we are human, we are weak, and we don't always know what to pray. But... when we have the Spirit dwelling within us we are aided in our unspoken prayers.

d. The main issue here is that we are spirit-filled believers need not be discouraged when we don't know what to pray. The Spirit is given to us as an aid. One way that the Spirit of Yahweh aids us is in interceding for us.

E. Let me briefly address the position that some take in which they equate these groanings with the gift of languages mentioned in 1 Cor. 14. I do not believe these passages are referring to one and the same thing.

1. For starters, the gift of languages in 1 Cor. 14 is just that - a gift of a language or languages that while unknown to the speaker is understandable to other people who speak that particular language.

2. In other words, the gift of languages is not a sigh or a groan. It is not something unspoken.

3. Also, this in Romans 8:26 is a reference to something going on in the life of every single believer in Messiah. The gift of languages was a gift that was not given to every single believer (1 Cor. 12:30). Different gifts are assigned to different people in the body. Each member of the body does not hold the same office or gift.

4. Another thing that I'm seeing in my studies (and maybe I'll teach on this soon) is that the Scriptures really do not speak of a private prayer language anyway, so to me in my studies I see gift of languages as not even possible to be placed into Romans 8:26.

4. So I believe people had the gift of languages in Scripture (like Acts 2, Acts 10, etc.) but this in Romans 8 is something entirely different.

III. Romans 8:27 - "And He who searches the hearts knows the Spirit's mind-set, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

A. Who is the "He" that searches the heart? I don't see how its any other than Almighty Yahweh.

B. Paul writes that Yahweh, the one who knows our heart, also knows the mind-set of the Spirit. Why is this? Well, for starters it's because it is Yahweh's Spirit that we are indwelt with!

C. In other words, when the Spirit of Yahweh - which comes forth from Yahweh - intercedes on our behalf it will be an intercession that is perfect. It will always be a prayer that is proper.

D. Brothers and sisters... be encouraged by this. When you struggle, are weak, cry, are bothered and you don't know the words to say in prayer, the Holy Spirit of Yahweh that you are indwelt with prays perfectly for you - never getting anything wrong. Never.

E. I don't about you but that is very encouraging to me. It shines a whole new light on my prayer life.

IV. Romans 8:28 - "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose."

A. With this verse (and those that come after it, 29-30) Paul begins to tie the knot in this whole section about suffering, weakness, the Spirit's help, etc.

B. Paul is writing here to the believers about their suffering and their human frailty. But with Romans 8:28 he lets them know that we should all know that everything works together for the good of the genuine believer.

1. What we should think of here are the people in Scripture who were called by Yahweh for His purposes according to the good, but yet went through difficulties.

2. We should think of Joseph. Hated by family. Sold in slavery. Imprisoned. Yet it was all for the purposes of Yahweh.

3. We should think of Job. Lost all 10 children in one day. Lost all his possessions. Had a terrible skin disease come upon his body. His wife telling him to curse Yahweh. Yet it was all for the purposes of Yahweh.

4. 1 Peter 4:12 - "Dear friends, don't be surprised when the fiery ordeal comes among you to test you as if something unusual were happening to you. Instead, rejoice as you share in the sufferings of the Messiah, so that you may also rejoice with great joy at the revelation of His glory."

5. James 1:2-4 - "Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing."

C. If you are a lover of Yahweh, and if you have been effectually called according to His purposes, then Yahweh is working everything out in your life exactly as He wants it to be.

1. And I want Yahweh to be in control of my life.

2. I want Yahweh to steer me in the right direction.

3. I want Yahweh to make me lie down in green pastures.

4. I want Him lead be beside the still waters and restore my soul.

5. I want Yahweh to forcefully pull me out of a sinful activity. Something that is going to hurt me. Like I would pull my child out of the way of oncoming traffic.

5. And I also want whatever He wants for my life. Even if that means hardship, suffering, persecution, calamity, etc. I know that I do not know what's best for me, but He knows perfectly and completely.

D. So child of Yahweh today. The Spirit is indwelling you and helping you be obedient, it is a Spirit of adoption into the family of Yahweh, it is only the first fruits of what you will later receive fully, and it intercedes for you when you don't know in your weakness what to pray. Yahweh looks out for His children.

Loving Knowledge and Predestination

Romans 8 - Pt. 7

Romans 8:28-32 - "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything?"

I. Introduction

A. It is difficult to choose favorite verses of the Bible when you love the Bible so much.

B. That being said, I really do think that this text today is one of my favorite passages in all of Scripture.

C. As I've been going through Romans 8, we have seen in the past several verses, beginning at verse 17, that Paul is focusing in on our sufferings in this present age of mortality.

D. But not only has he been writing about suffering now he has also been writing about being glorified later. This makes all the difference in the world.

1. If we suffer with him we will be glorified him.

2. And I tell you that the sufferings of this present life are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to follow.

3. And I also tell you that all things work together for the good of those who love Yahweh - those who are called according to His purpose.

4. I couldn't do what I do without these verses. These verses are my life, they are my breath, they are what keeps me going. I trust in them, I hold fast to them, I believe in them with all my heart. I know that this momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory.

E. And so we come today to Romans 8:29. We come today to the reason we can have confidence in our salvation. We come today to the reason we can be assured that we are in Him.

II. Romans 8:28-29 "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love Yahweh: those who are called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers."

A. I believe we must read Romans 8:28 to fully comprehend Romans 8:29.

1. Verse 29 begins with the word "for." It is introducing a thought that has to be based upon a previous declaration.
2. In other word we can be assured about verse 28 because of what is written in verse 29.
3. We can know all things are working together for the good of those who love Yahweh because those who love Yahweh have been foreknown and predestined. Then in verse 30 we learn that those foreknown and predestined have also been called, justified, and glorified. We'll get to defining those 3 in a later teaching.

B. Verse 29 begins by speaking of those He foreknew. The literal meaning of this word is to "know beforehand" or to "foresee."

1. Now, some people believe that this is just a bare, raw knowledge that God has, in this sense. Because God is omniscient (knowing all things all inclusive) he can see ahead of time who will choose Him and on the basis of the choice of man, Yahweh then makes His choice mentioned here in Romans 8:29. This is the majority view in Christianity today.
2. However... and this shouldn't surprise you... this is not my view. (I know you are saying, "You always have a different view Matthew.") Well, I'm not alone in my view, but those taking the position I'm about to explain to you are very few in number compared to those taking the bare foreknowledge view.
3. Now, we must distinguish here between bare knowledge and intimate knowledge.
 - a. For example, Scripture tells us that the demons know there is one God right? Does that mean that they know Him for salvation? Well of course not, they are part of the arch-enemy of God.
 - b. Scripture also tells us in Romans 1:18-20 that unregenerate people know that God exists because of the creation. We read here: "For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without

excuse." The point here is that in one sense everyone has a bare knowledge of the existence of God whether they admit to it or not. This does not mean though that they have an intimate, salvation knowledge of God for these same people are said NOT to know God in 1 Corinthians 1:21 - same author, Paul.

c. Here's an example of a more intimate knowledge. In Luke 1:34 when Mary is told by Gabriel that she will have a child that will be called the "Son of the Highest" she replies by saying, "How is this possible, seeing I have not known a man?" Now the HCSB translates her as saying, "I have not been intimate with a man" and that is not incorrect, but literally the word is *ginosko* - to know, knowledge. Now, did Mary know a man? Well, in one sense, in a bare knowledge sense, of course she knew a man, she knew of many men, but that is not the sense in which the word "know" is used there. We know it has a more intimate meaning in context.

4. So, is Romans 8:29 God's bare knowledge or intimate knowledge? Is He looking down through the hallway of time and seeing who will choose Him and then on this basis foreknowing and choosing them? Or... is His foreknowledge here an intimate knowledge of individual people whom He loves and chooses based upon His own free will?

a. Well, if you've been following in Romans 8 I think you should know the answer. We are speaking about beloved individuals that God intimately foreknows for salvation in Romans 8:29.

b. The text does not say that God knew something or anything about "us" but rather that He knew "us;" a particular group made up of individuals.

c. Paul has just got through doing his best to encourage individual people in their sufferings in this life, and he continues to do so here by writing to them that this is why they can know that God is working everything out according to the good... in their life. It begins with God foreknowing them in the sense of loving them beforehand and choosing them beforehand.

d. Think about it like this: Yahweh foreknows everybody doesn't He? Why sure He does. But, these individuals here (of which you are personally included if you are born of the Spirit) He foreknew - so this has to be more than raw knowledge. This has to be intimate knowledge of God.

C. So... we've covered the first 4 words of Romans 8:29, and that's taken us about 20 minutes to do so let's get to the rest of it. We read again - "For those He foreknew He also predestined..."

1. A lot of people do not like this word. A lot of people see that the God of Scripture does something called "predestine people" and they then sometimes think or say, "I can't believe in a god who is like that."

2. Here's the dilemma. If you believe the Bible, then you must believe in predestination. It was not invented by Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin, etc. True enough, these are men that to certain degrees believed in predestination, but they did not invent predestination.

3. So what is it? It is akin to the word for foreknowledge (*proginosko*) in the sense that it begins with a "pro" as well in the Greek meaning beforehand. It is the word *prooridzo*, and basically means to determine something beforehand.

4. It is not a word only used by Paul. It is used also by the apostles (led by Peter and John) in their prayer in Acts 4. I'll read part of this prayer found in Acts 4:24-28 - "Master, You are the One who made the heaven, the earth, and the sea, and everything in them. You said through the Holy Spirit, by the mouth of our father David Your servant: Why did the Gentiles rage and the peoples plot futile things? The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers assembled together against Yahweh and against His Messiah. "For, in fact, in this city both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against Your holy Servant Yeshua, whom You anointed, to do whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined (*prooridzo*) to take place."

a. So what we see here is that the early apostles recognized that what happened to Yeshua (his torture, crucifixion, death, etc.) was exactly what Yahweh had already predetermined.

b. So I have to ask this question... could anything else have happened to Yeshua? Well, unless you believe that the plan of Yahweh could be thwarted then the answer has to be NO. Only that which was predetermined by Yahweh could take place and nothing else. I told you that this is a part of Scripture many people have issues with. :)

5. So, back to Romans 8:29. What we see here is the second link on a chain.

a. The first link was Yahweh's intimate foreknowledge.

b. The second link is predestination.

c. All those Yahweh foreknew (loving knowledge) he also predestined. He predetermined them. In other words it was not their choice that made Yahweh choose, that wouldn't be Yahweh predetermining that would be man determining. It is rather Yahweh's choice that makes a person choose. People do choose to follow Yahweh, but in the large scope it is only because Yahweh chose them first.

d. It's like the verse you hear quoted in 1 John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us." Do you really believe that verse though? Or do you actually think that you loved Him and then He started loving you on that basis?

e. Well, that's just not a link in the chain here. The text says that we know all things work together for the good of those who love Yahweh, those who are called according to HIS purpose. FOR whom He did foreknow, these He also did predestinate..." It all starts with the Creator, and not with the creature.

D. What does this predestination mean for these people? Well, let's allow the text itself to answer that for us. It says He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son.

1. First of all what we see here is what we see all through Scripture. We see Yahweh and then we see His Son, Yeshua. There is a Father and a Son. They are not one in the same. It is not the Son here who is foreknowing and predestinating people. It is Yahweh the Father doing this, and He is predestinating people to be conformed to the image of His Son.

2. Secondly, what does this mean to be conformed to the Son's image? I think it is two-fold, I really do. I think it refers to the here and now and also to that which comes in the future.

3. This is why there is absolutely nothing wrong with doing anything that Yeshua did. There can't be. If he is the spiritual "lamb without blemish" then to imitate him on this earth is not only permissible, but it is the only way to live.

4. I just told someone the other day that asked me about keeping Passover. I said, "I want to be like Yeshua. He kept the Passover, so I want to follow in His footsteps." How can you argue with that? How can you condemn me for doing something and not condemn Yeshua for doing that very same thing?

5. And here's the beauty of it. Yahweh saves people from their sins here. There is a false doctrine of once saved always saved in the world that I do not believe. It's as though Yahweh saves people but they continue to live according to the flesh rather than by the spirit and they still profess to be saved, because it's all by grace.

6. Well, it is all by grace - that's what we're learning here - but the grace of God, His intimate foreknowledge and predetermination of a person is for the purpose of conforming that person to the image of His Son. That's why if He has truly saved a person by His own sovereign free will they will become more and more and more and more like Yeshua the Messiah in the life that they live. Let me get plain here. Here is what the "here and now" aspect of being conformed to the Son means.

- a. Where you may have once been a bitter, hateful person, you have been changed into a loving, caring person.
- b. Where you once only looked out for yourself, you have been changed into someone who looks out for other people.
- c. Where you once wanted to be served, you have been changed to where you want to do the serving.
- d. Where you once put everything earthly first, you have been changed to put Yahweh first.
- e. Where you once were a thief. You have been changed into a giver.
- f. Where you once were full of adultery and fornication, you have been changed into desiring purity and chastity.
- g. Where you once could care less about the Sabbath, you have been changed into wanting to honor Yahweh's set-apart day.
- h. Where you once knew nothing of Yahweh's appointments, you have been changed into looking forward to the holydays.
- g. Where you once thought days like Christmas and Easter were holy, you have been changed into seeing that you cannot mix good and evil.
- h. Where you once ate anything that didn't eat you first, you have been changed into desiring to only eat from Yahweh's menu.
- i. Where you once were embarrassed to be different from the world, you have been changed to desire to be modest, wear tassels,

wear phylacteries, or do anything outwardly that Yahweh commands.

j. Where you once had a heart and a mind that was set on filth, you have been changed, you have been changed, say I have been changed, I am being conformed to the image of the Son of Yahweh.

k. This is what we are predestined to.

E. But, this is not where it ends. This is only one aspect of being conformed to the image of the Son. The other involves the future. The other involves our resurrection body. This fits hand in glove with what Paul has written in Romans 8 up to this point.

1. Conformed to the image of the Son doesn't just mean living in this life, it means one day being resurrected to eternal life just like him.

2. You will receive, at the resurrection, immortality, just like the Son received some 2,000 years ago on the 16th day of Aviv as the first-fruit offering.

3. Remember what I said a few weeks back? Where there is a first fruit there is also a full harvest. Yeshua is the firstborn of many brethren. Isn't that what Romans 8:29 says? Let's read it again - "For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He (the Son) would be the firstborn among many brothers."

4. The firstborn holds a special position. He is the special Son, the unique Son, the only begotten Son, the firstborn Son, but isn't it wonderful that we are made to be fellow heirs with the Messiah? We are the many brothers and sisters that are birthed after him, and one day this will take place in its fullness. We will meet him, we will hug him, we will see the very Son of the Almighty. We will be fully conformed to His image.

Called-Justified-Glorified

Romans 8 - Pt. 8

Text: Romans 8:28-34

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God: those who are called according to His purpose. For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers.

30: And those He predestined, He also called; and those He called, He also justified; and those He justified, He also glorified.

- General Call vs. Internal, Effectual Call (Mt. 22:14 "Many are Called...")
- Justified = Declaration of Innocence in Court.
- Glorified goes back to verses 17-18: "And if children, also heirs —heirs of God and coheirs with Christ —seeing that we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us."
- Notice glorified spoken of in past tense = surety.
- No Breaks in the Chain. Eternal Security. Falling Away.
- "I'll just live anyway and be saved." Not true. Predestined to Image of the Son.

31: What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

- Conclusion? Pertaining to this Golden Chain. Also chapters 5-8.
- If God is not a question but a statement.
- Think about it... who could overturn God's decision?
- There will be man against us, but they cannot defeat the Almighty.
- This all hearkens back to 8:17 culminating in 8:28.

32: He did not even spare His own *Son* but offered *Him* up for us *all*; how will He not also with *Him* grant us everything?

- Follow the He, His, and He. Then the *Son*, *Him*, and *Him*.
- Yahweh did not spare His own Son. ??? Offering Him up for us.
- Jn. 3:16. For God SO loved (in this way)... gave His *monogenes* Son.
- He gave the greater - His Son - He will also give us the lesser.
- Remember: Co-heirs or Fellow-heirs.
- Who is the "us all"? No universalism. Elect. Context = Golden Chain.

33: Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the One who justifies.

- First question = Who has the ability? NO ONE!
- Notice that THE ELECT are in view. This is the "us all" vs. 32.
- No one can accuse you because God has declared you innocent.
- God's verdict is final. Enemies will try, but none will stand.

34: Who is the one who condemns? Messiah Yeshua is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us.

- Who condemns? Many try (like 31, 33 "against, accuse") but fail.
- Why do they fail? Because of what Yeshua has done for us.
- The Father initiated, the Son then carried it through.
- He died (important) but even more, God raised Him from death.
- Death without Resurrection to Immortality is nothing.

- Resurrection is mentioned because of context of glorification.
- Right Hand = Most Authoritative Position; but notice God still over him.
- Intercedes = asking, mediation, peace.
- The elect are secure, not because of there selves, but because of Yahweh.

Nothing Can Separate the Elect

Romans 8 - Pt. 9

Romans 8:31-39

What then are we to say about these things? If Yahweh is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare His own Son but offered Him up for us all; how will He not also with Him grant us everything? Who can bring an accusation against Yahweh's elect? Yahweh is the One who justifies. Who is the one who condemns? Messiah Yeshua is the One who died, but even more, has been raised; He also is at the right hand of Yahweh and intercedes for us. Who can separate us from the love of Messiah? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of Yahweh that is in Messiah Yeshua our Master!

I. Introduction - Today we will cover the remaining portion of Romans 8, but I read some of the verses we covered in the last sermon. Verses 31-34.

A. And these were just awesome, awesome verses. When we consider the fact that all those Yahweh foreknew are eventually glorified, what are we to say?

B. The apostle here gives us some words to say. We say things like this:

1. If Yahweh is for us, who can really be against us?
2. If Yahweh did not spare His own Son, but offered Him up, will He not also grant us our inheritance with His Son?
3. Who is able to bring an accusation against the elect of Yahweh? They are the elect. (Remember *Matthew 24:24 - if it were possible, even the elect would be deceived... but it's not possible.)

4. Yeshua died for us, and even more, He's been raised, and He sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

5. These are some statements that we can say about "these things."

C. I mentioned last week that it is because of passages like this one that I believe in what is called eternal security. Simply defined it is this: those who have been regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit are not able to lose their salvation. The key element here is that their salvation doesn't depend upon them, it depends upon the Almighty.

D. If I believed salvation depended upon the will of man then I would believe that a man that came to salvation could also let go of salvation, but I don't believe that because I don't believe the Scriptures teach it.

1. This does not mean, as some wrongly interpret it, that you can just sit in your house and say, "Well, if God saves me I'll be saved, but if he doesn't I cannot do anything about it." If you look at the sovereignty of Yahweh in salvation like that, then you (1) don't understand the Biblical doctrine, and (2) you are most likely not of the elect.

2. The elect recognize that Yahweh is salvation (which is what the name Yeshua means) but they also recognize what Peter wrote in *2 Peter 1:10 where he said, "Therefore, brothers, make every effort to confirm your calling and election, because if you do these things you will never stumble."

3. The elect know that if Yahweh is working in their life, they will be at work for Him. That's the only way it works.

4. You ever noticed these two truths taught in *Philippians 2:12-13? "So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose."

5. So, the elect are elect and they are eternal secure. They are foreknown, predestined, effectually called, justified and glorified. And because they are elect they live lives of holiness and righteousness before the Almighty. He is working through them to desire and work out His good purpose.

E. What we will see here today is more evidence that those who are in Messiah, in spite of their earthly troubles, in spite of suffering under persecution, and in spite of suffering in this human flesh, are still more than conquerors because of who they have been made in Messiah. Nothing can separate them from Yahweh's love.

II. *Romans 8:35 - Who can separate us from the love of Messiah? Can affliction or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

A. In this verse Paul continues his list of questions that are easily answered because of the chain of events we saw in Romans 8:29-30.

B. Questions like "If Yahweh is for us who can be against us?" are answered easily with NO ONE.

1. People will try to be against you, making every effort to accuse you and bring you down.

2. People, demons, and even Satan himself will make efforts to condemn you, try to bring you down, try to convince you that you sinned way too much to ever be forgiven. But through it all you must recognize who you are, not in yourself, but who you are in Messiah.

C. This question here is answered easily with NO ONE. No one can separate us (the elect) from the love of Messiah. This is the point Paul is making.

D. Paul then gives a list and if you'll notice, this list has everything to do with suffering. The suffering he wrote about in Romans 8:17-18.

1. Affliction
2. Anguish
3. Persecution
4. Famine
5. Nakedness
6. Danger
7. Sword

E. What Paul is doing here is giving further encouragement to those who suffer for righteousness sake.

1. Christians may have thought that because they were experiencing famine or nakedness that the love of Messiah was not surrounding them.

2. Paul combats this mindset, teaching them that in spite of what they encounter in this life in the realm of suffering it does not mean that the love of Messiah has been removed. And it certainly does not mean that these things will eventually cause them to lose their salvation.

3. Never fall for this trap. Never think that because you are a believer in the Father and His Son that this has to mean that life is a bowl of cherries... or you just place in your favorite food or candy here.

4. Some of the most righteous men and women in Scripture suffered severe hardships. Things like anguish, pain, stripes, death by sword, etc. In the midst of it all, the love of Messiah still abounded in their life.

F. Now, some people wrongly interpret this verse (vs. 35) as saying, "Well, the reason these things won't separate a true believer from the love of Messiah is because if they are a true believer they won't experience such things!" That's completely wrong. That's as wrong as it gets.

III. *Romans 8:36 - As it is written: Because of You we are being put to death all day long; we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.

A. Now here, Paul continues to solidify his point. Notice he goes to something written. So what should we do? Shouldn't we go back to the reference Paul is writing about?

B. This is a quote from Psalm 44:22, and in this Psalm there is a recognition by the people of Yahweh that it is Yahweh that has put them through their hardships. They are crying out to Yahweh for help, but in the midst of their suffering they never let go of the fact that Yahweh is still in control. Yahweh's love is still there in their life. They serve Yahweh to get Yahweh.

C. Do you all remember a woman by the name of Lisa Beamer? She was Todd Beamer's wife, and Todd was the guy who talked to his wife on flight 91 just before he and some others attempted to take back over the plane that had been hijacked and was on its way to be crashed into the Pentagon. He stated the famous line, "Let's Roll."

1. Well, Lisa lost her husband that day, but I want you to know that she recognized Yahweh's sovereignty through even the death of her husband. I'll let her tell you.

2. In an interview she did that appeared in a 2002 edition of the publication "Modern Reformation" she stated the following - "God knew the terrible choices the terrorists would make and that Todd Beamer would die as a result. He knew my children would be left without a father and me without a husband . . . Yet in his sovereignty and in his perspective on the big picture, he knew it was better to allow the events to unfold as they did rather than redirect Todd's plans to avoid death. . . . I can't see all the reasons he might have allowed this when I know he could have stopped it . . . I don't like how his plan looks from my perspective right now., but knowing that he loves me and can see the world from start to finish helps me say, 'It's OK.'"

3. In another publication titled Decision, back in 2002 she said this - "God's sovereignty has been made clear to me. When I am tempted to

become angry and ask 'What if?' and , 'Why us?' God says, 'I knew on September 10, and I could have stopped it, but I have a plan for greater good than you can ever imagine.' I don't know God's plan, and honestly, right now I don't like it very much. But I trust that He is true to His promise in Romans 8:28: 'We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.' My only responsibility is to love God. He'll work out the rest."

4. Lisa Beamer understands that Yahweh is sovereign, and that suffering in this life for the believer is always in Yahweh's loving control.

C. So Paul knows that there are people in his day that are suffering just like those living back in the days of David. Paul wants them to know that none of these things separate them from the love of Messiah.

D. And here is the next reason why that earlier argument I said people make can't be true.

IV. *Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.

A. Paul closes the loop and really answers his own question from back in verse 35.

B. Remember in 35 where he asks, "Who can separate us from the love of Messiah?" He answers that here with a NO meaning NO-THING or NOTHING.

C. Instead of looking at suffering and persecution as separating us from the love of Messiah we should be of the mindset that IN all these things we are more than victorious through Him who loved us.

D. IN affliction, IN anguish, IN famine, IN nakedness, we are more than victorious. Being victorious is great, but Paul emphasizes here by calling the elect MORE than victorious.

E. And our victory once again doesn't come from within ourselves. We are not the reason that we win the battle. Notice that we are more than victorious THROUGH Him who loved us.

V. *Romans 8:38-39 - For I am persuaded that not even death or life, angels or rulers, things present or things to come, hostile powers, height or depth, or any other created thing will have the power to separate us from the love of Yahweh that is in Messiah Yeshua our Master!

A. Here we learn in the most plain language that the elect cannot lose their salvation. It's because Yahweh accomplished the golden chain of redemption (vs.

29-30). So because it is Yahweh that does all, this means something, someone, or somebody would have to over power Yahweh and that's just not possible. You cannot over power Yahweh.

1. Anytime suffering happens to You, its only because Yahweh has, for reasons sometimes unknown to us, allowed it to take place.

2. Yahweh can allow your death, but the key here is that you must understand Yahweh allowed it. He is in control. Nobody can harm you without Yahweh's allowance. This should keep you, if you are of the elect, in peace knowing that he's not reacting to everyone else's actions.

B. So Paul gives a huge list here of everything that one would think COULD have the power to separate a genuine believe from the love of Yahweh.

C. Most of these things Paul mentions are mentioned in pairs. I believe that what Paul is doing is exaggerating the point from one extreme to another to show just how impossible it is for the elect to be separated from Yahweh's love.

1. Death or Life - He begins with death because he's just went over severe persecution. We might wonder why he says "life" here. Is he talking about the cares of this life? I don't think so. I think he is just using the two opposites to show that nothing in our existence can separate us.

2. Angels or Rulers - Here Paul could be going into the spirit world now. He's just mentioned our human existence and now he is saying that nothing in the existence of the spiritual world can separate us. Rulers could be human too, but may be evil spirits, demons, fallen angels because it is placed as the opposite of Angels like life is the opposite of death.

3. Things Present or Things to Come - Paul again states this in a pair. Neither that which you are suffering now, nor what may come in your future is able to separate you from Yahweh's love.

4. Hostile Powers - Wicked rulers on the earth maybe.

5. Height or Depth - More opposites just to exaggerate.

6. Or any other created thing - It's as Paul knew in advance that some "wise guy" would try to say, "Well I know Paul said nothing, but there really is a few things that can separate the elect from Yahweh's love." Paul combats this by ending with this "any other created thing" to let you know he really meant that NO-THING can separate the elect from Yahweh's love.

D. Paul ends here by saying "Yahweh's love in Messiah Yeshua." Paul has centered upon the Father and the Son in this whole chapter, and he wants you to

know again that the love of Yahweh the Father was expressed in the gift of His own Son, Yeshua the Messiah. You have to remember that eternal life hinges upon knowing the only true God (Yahweh) and His Son whom He sent (Yeshua) - John 17:3.

E. So, are we going to believe Paul here in this text? Are we going to recognize that the elect, even though they are the elect, face extreme suffering in this life? And are we really going to believe that NOTHING, absolutely NOTHING is able to separate the elect from the love of Yahweh in Messiah Yeshua? I believe it, because that's what the text teaches.