

Booklet Four

The Hope of Salvation

(Assurance of the Gospel)

Part 2

<i>June 24th</i>	<i>Romans 7:1-25</i>	<i>Law</i>
<i>July 1st</i>	<i>Romans 8:1-17</i>	<i>Spirit Life</i>
<i>July 8th</i>	<i>Romans 8:18-30</i>	<i>Glory</i>
<i>July 15th</i>	<i>Romans 8:31-38</i>	<i>Conquerors</i>

"²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

Romans 2:21-22

Romans 7:1-25

Law

The reality of our sanctification, living our new life in Jesus, is not always a straight path. There are hills to climb and valleys to descend into. Yet this process of being remade into the image of Christ is a fundamental part of our salvation. Part of this process is wrestling with the law principle in our lives. Most of us have never lived under the Jewish law, but we have all lived under law. This law may have been imposed upon us by our family, community, nation, religion, culture, or even our own internal conscience. Paul's fundamental argument is that this law is not wrong or bad. Rather, this law exposes our shortcomings and inevitable failure to live up the right standards we are given by God. When we try to change ourselves and/or others through these standards we are met with failure and awareness of our inability to fulfill the law. Because of our justification and grace in Jesus we are no longer under the law but we now live in the new way of the Spirit which delivers us from sin and death!

1. In verses 1-6 Paul explains the law is not able to deliver us from sin and because of Jesus there is a new way for us to live. How does the illustration of marriage (verses 2-3) help us understand this truth? How does this illustration help us understand our new relationship with Christ through the Spirit?
2. In verse 7 Paul addresses a possible reaction to this news. "Then is the law sinful?" Why is this reaction so common in our own lives? Why is Paul's response so emphatic? What is so good and important about the law in our lives?
3. How does the distinction between the erroneous view of law as salvation (produces death) and the Biblical view that the law is a revealer of our need for the gospel help us to have a proper understanding of the laws role in our lives?
4. Discuss verse 13 and the implications of the law in our new life with Jesus. How does an awareness of the abhorrent nature of sin affect our lives? How does it drive us to a greater understanding of our need for Jesus?
5. Can you identify with Paul in verses 14-25? How is this part of the normal Christian life? How does this internal struggle make us dependent upon grace and Jesus work of sanctification?
6. What is the role of humility in our sanctification? How does Paul model this humility in sharing the conflict of law and failure in his own life? How does the salvation of Jesus change the struggle in our lives? (v.24)

Romans 8:1-17

Spirit Life

As we have journeyed through Romans, understanding more and more of God's power to provide our salvation, we arrive to the summit in Romans 8. In this chapter, we can look back at the vista of all that God has accomplished in Jesus Christ:

*Our true condition of sinfulness under God's wrath and His gracious act of justification in the work of Jesus on the cross and in His resurrection.

*Our response of faith and trust in God's power to do what He has promised.

*The gracious work of God to bring about our sanctification.

All this to bring us to Romans 8, which begins to describe the new life filled with the Holy Spirit (the very presence of God) to ultimately bring us to our glorification and the glorification of all of creation! Verses 1-17 make it very clear that God is starting with us in this process of sharing His glory with us. The Spirit of God, who inhabits our lives creates new life in us that allows us to live the new life of righteousness and ultimately share in the Glory of God.

1. Verse 1 contains one of the greatest promises in the Scriptures. How is the freedom from condemnation good news to you today?
2. How does the phrase "in Christ Jesus" sum up all the truth of our salvation found in Romans 1-7? How does our union with Jesus make the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives possible?
3. Verse 3 declares God's power over the law. How did God exert His power over the law? How is this power manifested in the life of a follower of Jesus (v.4)?
4. Verses 5-17 contrasts the Spirit life as opposed to the flesh life. How do we choose the Spirit life over the flesh life? What is the evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives?
5. What is the result of living in the flesh? What are the results of living in the Spirit?
6. What is the nature of our relationship with God in the Spirit life v.14-17? How is adoption a powerful metaphor for our identity and relationship with God?
7. What is the significance of being able to call God "Abba Father"? How does this change your view of God and your relationship with Him?
8. What is the significance of being heirs of God v.17? What are the rights and privileges of an heir?
9. Why must we share in Christ sufferings to also share in His glory? What is the role of suffering in our lives as children of God? How does the hope of glory change the way we suffer in this life?

Romans 8:18-30

Glory

In this passage of scripture, Paul points out some present facts of life and some future promises. He alludes to how the future promise can affect how we live with the present facts.

Our current life - on this earth and in this body- is subject to futility and in bondage to decay. It includes suffering and weakness. It is broken.

Paul has spent the previous chapters of Romans to show how God has healed the brokenness of our *inner-lives* through faith in Jesus Christ. In this passage we are told that one day God will heal our *outward-lives*. Our bodies (that which houses our inner-lives) and the environment in which we live (that which houses both our inner and outer lives), will all be RESTORED to perfect harmony! Everything in this current life is working towards this restored end. The terms Paul uses for this Full Redemption are: glory, glorified, and glorification. Our body, soul, spirit, and world will all be HEALED! Everything that is broken will be fixed forever! Everything will be right! IT IS COMING!!!

1. Verse 18 compares our current condition (Spirit life in Christ) with suffering as incomparable with the coming glory of our glorification. How does this change the way we suffer in this life?
2. Verse 20 is a reference to the curse in Genesis 3. How does this verse reveal God's plan to end the curse? How is God working to reverse the suffering and death of all creation? Why do you think He starts with us (children of God)?
3. Verses 22-25 captures the longing, hope, and expectation that God will accomplish His plan of glorification of His people and all creation. Have you felt the groaning in your own life of waiting for this day? How does hope sustain us in this time of waiting?
4. What is our help in times of groaning v.26-27? How does our human weakness speak of our need for the Spirit of God?
5. Verse 28 contains another great promise of God. How does God's sovereign goodness and love change the way we go through suffering in this life? How does the purpose and meaning of God give us steadfast faith in the face of the groaning of this life? Share examples of how you have seen this in other people's lives.
6. Verse 29 is a summary verse of our salvation in Jesus. What stands out to you in this verse? God's sovereign work of salvation in our lives has a past, present, and future reality. How does this give us assurance in the face of suffering in our lives right now? How can we have confidence that God will bring about His glorification in our lives?

Romans 8:31-39

Conquerors

There is a real love, a love that is beyond the power and grasp of mere men. Man cannot manufacture, buy, create, secure, hoard or destroy it. This real love must be bestowed as a free and permanent possession upon the heart, and must be revealed to the eyes of the inner man by faith. It is a love called out and bestowed freely upon the person loved by an awakened sense of value which causes the lover to prize him. This kind of love has to do with the heart, and so directs the will, the mind and the reason. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the performance or lack of it on the part off the beloved. In this alone lies the power of its unending nature.

1. Verse 31 asks us how we will respond in light of the glorious and good plan God has presented to us in Jesus Christ? How does the statement, "If God is for us who can be against us?" Give us confidence and courage to face suffering and hardship in this life? How does our identity as children of God prepare and equip us for life on earth and life for all of eternity with God?
2. How do verses 32-39 give us assurance of our salvation in Jesus?
3. How does the intercession of the Resurrected Jesus and Lord of all assure our victory (v.34)?
4. How does the persistent, unwavering unshakable, abounding love of Jesus change everything in our lives? Give some examples of how this love has impacted your life?
5. What does it mean to be a conqueror in this life? Give some examples in your life or that of others what a conquering life looks like in Christ?
6. How does the unchanging, inseparable, inexhaustible love of Jesus give us confidence for today and tomorrow no matter what comes our way?