

Message Eleven

Romans 8, the Most Crucial Chapter in Romans

Scriptures reading: Rom. 8:2, 4, 6, 10-11, 14, 16-17, 26, 28-30, 34.

I. Romans 8 is the most crucial chapter in Romans, because it reveals the experience of the Triune God as life for the Body life; to have the experience of all that is revealed in this portion is to live in the reality of the organic Body of Christ.

II. The law of life—Rom. 8:2.

- A. A law denotes a natural power with certain inclinations and activities; every kind of life has its own law, and as living beings, we live by definite organic laws.
- B. The law of divine life—the law of the Spirit of life—is the automatic and spontaneous capacity of the Triune God as life in the believers.
- C. To see this is to realize that the Triune God is now operating in us according to the law and not according to mere activity.
- D. As the law of life functions within us, it regulates us with the shape of life, conforming us to the image of Christ (v. 29).

III. Walking according to the mingled spirit—8:4.

- A. The righteous requirement of God's law—including the higher law of the kingdom of the heavens (Matt. 5-7)—must be fulfilled.
 - 1. This requirement is fulfilled not by us but *in* us.
 - 2. It implies that the indwelling Christ is living in us to carry out whatever God requires of us.
- B. The righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in those, and only in those, who walk according to the spirit.
 - 1. Spirit here denotes the mingled spirit—the regenerated human spirit indwelt by and mingled with divine Spirit to become one spirit—1Cor. 6:17.
 - 2. If we walk according to the spirit by living and having our being according to our mingled spirit, then we will, in our daily living,

experience the subjective and experiential divine transfers out of the flesh into the Spirit.

IV. The mind set on the spirit—8:6.

- A. Romans says that our mind “was disapproved mind” and “independent mind” representing the self—1:28; 7:25.
- B. Here in chapter 8, we see “the mind set on the spirit,” the mind that is dependent upon the mingled spirit and one with the spirit, allowing the spirit to become the spirit of the mind—8:6; Eph. 4:23.
- C. The mind set on the spirit not only *has* life and peace; such a mind *is* life and peace.
- D. In 12:2 the mind is renewed for the sake of the Body life, and the one with a renewed mind does not “think more highly of himself than he ought to think” but thinks “so as to be sober-minded, and God has apportioned to each a measure of faith” —12:3.
- E. This leads to being “of the same mind toward one another,” not setting the mind on the high things, and to being “of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus” —12:16; 15:5.

V. The divine dispensing of the Triune God as life—8:11.

- A. The divine economy—God’s plan to work Himself into His chosen and redeemed people as their life and life and life supply—is carried out by the divine dispensing of the Triune God as life into the tripartite human beings, a dispensing that causes their entire being either to become the divine life or to be filled with the divine life.
- B. In 8:11 we have the entire Triune God indwelling us to carry out divine dispensing indicated by the words *give life*.
- C. Triune God is now dispensing Himself into our entire tripartite being:
 - 1. Divine life being dispensed into our spirit based on God’s righteousness—v.10.
 - 2. Divine life being dispensed into our soul, through the mind as the leading part being renewed—v. 6.
 - 3. Divine life will be dispensed to give life to our mortal bodies—v.11.

VI. The leading of the spirit–8:14.

- A. The children of God have witness of the Spirit with their spirit (v.16) but the sons of God are led by the Spirit.
- B. Whereas the children of God have been born of God and thus possess the life and nature of God, they are not yet mature in life; hence, they need to grow and develop by giving the divine life the ground in their being to increase and spread.
- C. The sons of God, by contrast, have some measure of growth in life and thus are approaching spiritual maturity, being “led by the Spirit.”
- D. This leading is not merely an action of the Spirit but the Triune God Himself becoming the leading in our spirit.
- E. If we care for Him as a person who indwells us, we will spontaneously be led by Him.

VII. Heirs of God–8:17.

- A. In chapter 8, Paul mentions not only the children of God and the sons of God but also the heirs of God.
- B. Being children of God is our initial relationship, which begins from the moment of regeneration, but we may remain children without the growth of sons, or we may become sons of God yet lack the qualification of heirs.
- C. First, we need to grow and develop in the divine life to become sons of God; then we need further growth, development, and maturation in order to be heirs of God, those who inherit the Triune God as their divine inheritance.
- D. This verse (v. 17) makes clear that becoming heirs has a particular requirement—suffering with Christ.
- E. The more we suffer with Christ in the carrying out of God's economy to build up the Body of Christ, the more we grow and the faster we are matured to be joint heirs with Christ, the Heir of all things—Col. 1:24; Heb. 1:2.

VIII. The intercession of Christ and of the Spirit–8:26.

- A. According to verse 34 Christ is at the right hand of God in the heavens interceding for us; however, according to verse 26, it is the Spirit who intercedes for us.
- B. These are not two Intercessors but one, the Lord Spirit—2Cor. 3:18.
- C. He is interceding for us at the two ends:
 - 1. At the one end it is the Spirit in us, probably initiating the intercession for us.
 - 2. And at the other end, it is the Lord Christ at the right hand of God, probably completing the intercession for us.
 - 3. This must be mainly that we will be conformed to His image and brought into His glory.

IX. All things—8:28.

- A. The intercession by the Lord Spirit is related to the “all things” in verse 28.
- B. In response to the Spirit’s intercession, the Father, in His wisdom and sovereignty, arranged all things, matters, and persons in our circumstances to work together for our good that His purpose to have sons for His corporate expression might be fulfilled.

X. Conformation and glorification—8:29-30.

- A. The law of life, the divine dispensing, being led by the Spirit, the growth in life to maturity, the intercession of Christ and the Spirit, all things—all these work together wonderfully, amazingly, to bring us to the climax of God’s organic salvation, that involves conformation and glorification.
- B. God has predestinated us to be conformed to the image of His Son, and this predestination will be accomplished through salvation in life, organic salvation.
- C. Ultimately, those who have been transformed and conformed will be glorified, when the element of the divine glory, which has been gradually permeating them under the sealing of the Spirit bursts forth in splendor, and they “shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” —Eph. 4:30; Matt. 13:43.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom. 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom. 8:10-11. **10** But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom. 8:16-17. **16** The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God. **17** And if children, heirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Rom. 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help *us* in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom. 8:28-30. **28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. **29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; **30** And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Rom. 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

1Cor. 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

Rom. 1:28 And even as they did not approve of holding God in *their* full knowledge, God gave them up to a disapproved mind, to do the things which are not fitting,

Rom. 7:25 Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh, the law of sin.

Eph. 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind

Rom. 12:2-3. **2** And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect. **3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly *of himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.

Rom. 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another, not setting your mind on the high things but going along with the lowly; do not be wise in yourselves.

Rom. 15:5 Now the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind toward one another according to Christ Jesus,

Col. 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings on your behalf and fill up on my part that which is lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His Body, which is the church;

Heb. 1:2 Has at the last of these days spoken to us in the Son, whom He appointed Heir of all things, through whom also He made the universe;

2Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Eph. 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed unto the day of redemption.

Matt. 13:43 Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.