

Bible Study of Romans Romans 8:1-11

Introduction

Romans 8 is one of the greatest chapters in all of the Bible. Spener said that if the Holy Scriptures were a ring and the Epistle to the Romans its precious stone, chapter 8 would be *the* sparkling point of the jewel. It is filled with assurance and hope, both for this life and the life to come, for all who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. As Haldane said, "This chapter presents a glorious display of the power of Divine grace, and of the provision which God has made for the consolation of His people."

There is one main theme: *the security of the believers in Jesus Christ*. As Hodge commented, "The salvation of those who have renounced the law and accepted the gracious offers of the Gospel is shown to be absolutely certain. The whole chapter is a series of arguments, most beautifully arranged, in support of this one point. They are all traced back to the great source of hope and security: the unmerited and unchanging love of God in Christ Jesus.

This main truth is stated in the first verse: they that are in Christ Jesus shall never be condemned or perish! The whole chapter reinforces the truth that the justified, though still plagued with sin and afflictions in this world, are nevertheless secure in Christ. Therefore the chapter begins with 'no condemnation' and ends with 'no separation.' The believer is secure in the sovereign and omnipotent love of God in Christ.

The connection of this chapter to the previous ones is still the security of 'justification by faith.' In ch. 5, 6, 7 but also in 8 Paul's thinking is still centered on this doctrine. In this chapter Paul's tone is triumphant whereas in chapter 7 it was the confession of a struggling saints with his old flesh.

We will explore the content of this chapter by a 'question and answer method'.

1. Assurance of salvation is a precious jewel of the Christian faith. How will one reach the full assurance of his or her personal salvation? Consult the Biblical teaching on how to obtain assurance of faith from Canons of Dort, I, 12; V, art 10 with the rejection article 5.

Verse 1-2

2. In vs. 1-2 Paul sings! What made him sing like this? Itemize the facts. Do you sing like this?

Verse 2-3

3. What does Paul exactly mean with vs. 2?
4. Why could (and can) the (moral) law not make us free like the Spirit did (vs. 2)?
5. In what two regards is the law of God weak? Why is weak like that?

6. What three things did God do to remedy this situation for His people?

Verse 4

7. How is the 'righteousness of the law fulfilled *in* us? Is this 'righteousness of the law' referring to the believer's obedient living?

8. How do these four verses strengthen the assurance of salvation?

Verse 4-5

9. One of the strongest evidences of our salvation is the presence and the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. What do these verses teach about how to know whether the saving work of the Spirit lives within you?

10. What are some ways in which even a regenerated person can fall into minding the things of the flesh?

Verse 6

11. Give some illustrations of how being carnally minded leads to death and spiritually minded leads to life and peace? Compare this to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:13-27.

Verse 7-8

13. Why can and will the carnal mind not be converted to God?

14. How does this verse define 'total depravity'?

15. Why cannot those in the flesh please God even with the good things they do?

16. How do these verses connect to the subject of assurance of faith?

Verse 9-11

16. Show from this verse how Paul seeks to bring his readers to the assurance of their salvation. How are we to use this truth in our own life? It is Biblical to 'draw a conclusion' that you are saved by the marks of grace given in these verses?

17. When Paul wrote in vs. 9 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His' does that mean that sanctification is the hall-mark of being saved?
18. How do we explain the words 'the body is dead because of sin?' What body is referred to?
19. Does 'the Spirit is life' refer to the Holy Spirit or the spirit of man made alive by the Spirit? And whose righteousness did he mean?
20. How does verse 11 strengthen the assurance and hope of salvation in the believer?