

Bible Study of Romans
Romans 8:12-15

INTRODUCTION:

Paul has been writing on the privileges of salvation in the previous verses. In a few verses, however, he makes application. Paul isn't just a doctrinal lecturer. He is a doctrinal pastor. He desired to see that the full truth have a powerful influence upon the daily thought and walk of the believers. By his own experience, he knew how easily God's children can stray away from their Redeemer. He knew that 'if you don't kill sin, it will kill you.' But he also understood Satan's attempts to paralyze the strength and testimony of God's children by keeping them un-assured of spiritual privilege as the children of God the Father.

Vs. 12

1. Seeing connections provide the key to understanding many texts. Words like "therefore" is a conjunction with ties the exhortation with the previous truths. So let's sum up what truths spurred Paul to make this exhortation.

2. Define the phrase 'that we are not debtors to the flesh.'

3. Yet Christians are 'debtors' which means that they have obligations. How would you define *your* obligations to God and how do you practically carry those out?

vs. 13

4. Define what it is to 'live after the flesh' as a believer (for Paul is addressing believers)?

5. "... ye shall die." How do we understand this 'shall die'? What other Scriptures can you find that would illustrate this experiential truth?

6. How do you mortify the deeds of the body?

7. If the mortification of sin is the work of the Spirit, why are believers then exhorted to do it?

8. "... ye shall live." Believers are already alive so how can they live?

From these verses it is clear that Paul believed that sanctification is a progressive journey for each believer in this life. There is no stage in this life where this exhortation is no more needed. The spiritual warfare of the Christian would end in total defeat if left to yourself. Therefore, Paul repeatedly refers to the work of the Holy Spirit. In the next verses take note of the precious work of the Holy Spirit in upholding as well as assuring the believers of their security in Christ.

Vs. 14

9. How is verse connected to the previous verses (the word 'for' in a connection word)?

10. Believers are 'led by the Spirit.' This truth raises a few significant questions. What does this leading consist of? How is this experienced in a believer? Is a believer always led by the Spirit? How do you know that the Spirit leads you? Does being led by the Spirit cancel our responsibility or increase our responsibility to walk in holiness?

11. In this and the following verses, several marks are mentioned which confirm that someone is a son or daughter of God. What are they?

12. If you cannot deny these marks of grace as evident in your life, may you then *conclude* that you are born again and therefore every ground to rejoice in being saved though you feel far from perfect in holiness?

Vs. 15

13. Satan's kingdom is greatly aided when believers remain un-assured of being sons or daughters of God. Why is this so true? How does Paul counter this Satanic attempt?

14. What is the 'spirit of bondage to fear?' And why did Paul write, 'you have not received this spirit of bondage again? What Scriptures verse in 1 John 4 are related to this verse?

15. How does one receive the Spirit of adoption, giving them the liberty to address God as their Father?

16. What privileges and obligations does adoption as sons or daughters of God include?