

Scripture: Romans 8:1-27 LD. 16: 41, 42 & 17
Singing: 265:1-3 – 323:1-4 – 217:2-3 – 426:8 – 186:1-3

The Spirit's Indwelling (2)

I. The meaning II. The evidence III. The comfort

I. THE MEANING OF THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

A. Paul's self-assessment in our devastating diagnosis: Romans 7:18a

1. *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing"*

a. We do not all live out our sinfulness is the same degree

b. Yet in God's eyes all *unregenerate cannot please Him* (Rom. 8:8)

2. Why does none of the 'good' the unregenerate do please God?

a. Can someone that holds you in contempt and labels you as untrustworthy please you even if they do nice things?

b. Can I please God when I suggest He is a liar? Disregard His honor?

c. You please Him when you 'kiss the Son' in faith (Ps. 2:12)

B. How one be pleasing to God when it still falls short? (Ps. 147:11)

1. Only by virtue of being united to Jesus Christ by faith:

*And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you **holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in His sight.** (Col. 1:21-22)*

a. we are to take our refuge in Him after a *life of sin and shame*

b. but we continue to take our refuge in Him for *our most holy things*

C. How precious is this indwelling of the Spirit of God!

1. His indwelling is the secret source and strength for the Christian life (9-10)

2. Meditate through Romans 5:5; 8:1, 4; 8:13, 14, 15, 16, 26

II. EVIDENCE OF HIS INDWELLING

A. It is not known by the current condition of your body (vs. 10)

1. 'Your body is dead' refers to our natural – physical body

2. Being in Christ does not exempt us from death (LD16. 42)

3. Christ's death & resurrection took the sting out of death: 1 Cor. 15:55-56

B. It is known by the presence of the Spirit of Christ within you (vs. 9-10)

1. The Spirit of Christ is the power of His resurrection spiritually

2. What is the evidence that the Spirit of Christ dwells in you?
 - a. He is present as the Spirit of conviction of sin (John 16:9)

 - b. He is present as the Spirit of revelation of Christ (John 6:44-45)

 - c. He is present as Spirit of holiness: conforming us to Christ (Rom. 8:4)