

LESSON 15: ROMANS 7:14-8:17

Struggling with Sin

1. How does Jesus Christ deliver you from punishment for your sin, and provide you with power that is greater than the power of sin? What truth in 7:14-25 seems most significant to you in your present circumstances?

Life in the Spirit

1. How is verse 1 a summary of Paul's argument up to this point? What does it mean to say that "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"? What is condemnation? Can God be displeased with us, and if so, what term might we use to describe our experience of that displeasure (if not "condemnation")?
2. What is "the law of the Spirit of life," and what "the law of sin and death" (v. 2)? What is the basis of Paul's confidence (vv. 2-4)? What is the righteous requirement of the law, and how are we to fulfill it (v. 4)? What does it mean, practically-speaking, to "walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (v. 4)?
3. Paul divides all humanity into two categories (vv. 5-8). What are the characteristics of each group? How do we know which category we are in? What does it mean to have one's mind set "on the things of the flesh" (v. 5), and how do you explain Paul's words in verse 8 that "those who are in the flesh cannot please God."
4. Read Paul's description of life in the Spirit in these verses (vv. 5-12). He declares in verse 6 that "to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." There are many professing Christians whose lives seem very different from Paul's description of life in the Spirit. How would Paul account for this fact? What is Paul's great point in verses 10-11?

5. Paul writes in verse 12 that “we are debtors.” In what way is this so? Describe the obligation each Christian is under (vv. 12-14).

6. Paul states that “if you live according to the nature, you will die.” How can this be reconciled with his teaching on justification by faith?

7. Practically speaking, what does it mean to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit (v. 13)? Why is it significant that “all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (v. 14)?

8. What two spirits are contrasted in verse 15? Read and compare Paul’s teaching in Galatians 3:23-29.

9. How do we experience the reality and privilege of being God’s children (vv. 16-17)? How are we assured that we are sons of God? What does it mean to say that we are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ”? And what is the significance of Paul’s final proviso, i.e., “provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him”? Does this erode our assurance all over again?

The Structure of Romans 1-8

- Chapter 1: The Power of the Gospel
The Guilt of Humankind
- Chapter 2: The Righteous Judgment of God
- Chapter 2-3: The Jews and the Law
- Chapter 3: None Is Righteous
- Chapter 4: Righteousness through Faith
The Example of Abraham
God's Promise through Faith
- Chapter 5: Results of Justification
Adam and Christ
- Chapter 6: Dying and Rising with Christ
Slaves of Righteousness
- Chapter 7: An Analogy from Marriage
The Law and Sin
The Inner Conflict
- Chapter 8: Life in the Spirit
Future Glory
God's Love in Christ Jesus