

The Book of Romans - Part 27

What a wonderful life it is living for the Lord and as we look into the book of Romans today, we're going to discover that Paul is telling us in Romans 8:5-17 that there is freedom from the power of sin. It doesn't mean that everything is going to be a bed of roses for us as saved people. As long as we're in this world, we will have trouble. And remember, Jesus Himself was tempted of the devil for 40 days and 40 nights that we read of in the New Testament, how that He was tried and He was tempted. That causes us problems when we are tempted, when we are led away of our own lusts, when we are led away by the flesh. But Paul wants us to see something today and the Lord wants us to see it in the book of Romans, chapter 8.

Let's continue our study today and we'll pick up with verse 5 and go through verse 8 right now as we start studying. It seems that Paul... and the Lord... wants us to know that there is freedom from the power of sin. In verses 5-8, it says, *⁵For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

I believe what Paul is trying to tell us here is that for those who set their minds on things of the Spirit and not the flesh, pleasing God... in other words we are to set our minds upon the things of God. We are not to give ourselves to the flesh or give in to the fleshly desires of this life. Now, it happens, but the reason we get saved and we are saved is to put forth the effort through the Spirit of not pleasing the flesh but pleasing God. If we

keep in mind that we are to be pleasing to God and not to our flesh, then that spurs us along and helps us to understand that we need to have freedom from the power of sin. Let the Spirit of God dwell in us, and He does dwell in us... those who have trusted Him as Savior, and we'll see this in the next three verses, verses 9-11. And it says this, *⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit... In other words, we're not carnal. We're not to be carnal but in the Spirit... if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ¹⁰And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken... in other words, make alive... your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

For those who have the indwelling Spirit, Paul is saying that this is freedom from the power of sin. This is how we have the freedom. This is how we get the victory. It's by the Holy Spirit, and if any man has not the Spirit, he's none of Christ. In other words, when you get saved, the Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit comes to live within us and nobody can be saved and not have the Spirit. Nobody is saved apart from having the Spirit of the Lord. When you get saved, when you ask Jesus to come into your heart, you are saved. Some people will teach you that you do a certain thing and then you pray to get the Spirit, but what you do is you pray to ask Jesus to come into your heart. You pray to get saved. And the moment that you ask Jesus to come into your heart, the Holy Spirit comes to indwell you, according to the Book that we're reading and that Book is God's Holy Word, that is, the Bible. Once again, it talks

about the indwelling Spirit here in verses 9 through 11 of Romans chapter 8.

Now, notice with me if you would verses 12 and 13. He's saying now, because of what we've just read in Romans 8:9-11, he says, *¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

He says there is freedom from the power of sin to those who, by the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body. Once again, we are going to have problems in this life, but we are to strive... not to be saved but because we are saved. We are to strive to do the things of the Spirit of the Lord. Let the Spirit of the Lord take control of our bodies. And he goes on to say there is freedom from the power of sin to those who are the children of God and joint heirs with Christ. He tells us this in verses 14-17. Paul says, *¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* And it talks about to be glorified together, and we could say be glorified together with Him.

The Bible is not teaching here that we suffer in order to go to Heaven. We are not made joint heirs with Christ by suffering, but that suffering will take place for the most part and many times in our lives as Christians because, just as He suffered, we will suffer but not to the extent that He did. He suffered the death on the cross. He shed His blood for you and me. He suffered more than any person has

ever suffered in this world and who will ever suffer. He suffered the death of the cross that you and I could be set free. Not only set free to go to Heaven, but set free from the power of sin, and one day, thank God, we'll be set free completely from that power. As long as we're in the flesh, there's a warfare going on, and what Paul is telling us in Romans 8:14-17 here is that there is freedom from the power of sin to those who are the children of God and joint heirs with Christ Jesus.

Now let us look at verse 18. The Bible is teaching us here. It says, *For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.* The present sufferings, Paul seems to be saying, can't compare with the future glory that we're going to have once our bodies have been changed and we go to be with the Lord.

In Romans 8:19 it says, *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.* The whole creation waits enthusiastically for the unveiling of the children of God. When that takes place, the whole creation is going to be set free. Colossians 3:4 says, *When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

We're going to be changed. These foul bodies are going to put on incorruption just like our Lord. All creation is eagerly awaiting the revealing and glorious liberty of the children of God. That's what the whole creation is waiting on, and not only will the children of God be delivered from the slavery of the rotting earth, putrefaction of sin, but everything created will be delivered, will be set free.

Now notice with me as we look at verse 20. *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath*

subjected the same in hope. The creation was unnaturally forced to be ruled by everything that is worthless. In other words, everything that is vanity, worthless. "Vanity," this means emptiness, frustration, disappointment. The creation... nature... became subject to vanity after man's fall into sin when God cursed the Earth. The whole universe felt the effects of Adam's sin.

Notice it says "not willingly" in verse 20, the whole creation unwillingly is made subject to vanity. The world of nature did not choose to be under the curse. The animals did not hold a convention and all decide that they would voluntarily place themselves under a divine curse. It was Adam who made the choice and God who brought the curse. He let it happen.

Now, notice in that verse it says "but by reason of him," and that word "him" refers to God who pronounced the curse and also gave hope. And we see this hope comes through Jesus Christ. Even our nature has been brought to this state of vanity. Although this has happened and brought this state of vanity, there is hope. There is an expectation. The future brings a promise of hope, and thank God, in verse 21, it says, *Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* Thank God, the curse will not last forever, according to that verse.

The whole creation, according to verse 22, is groaning right now. *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.* The whole creation, everything, groans. There is a deep moan; it's travailing, laboring, as if being in pain and suffering and is now, even now, in labor. The teaching of the Scripture is that creation is at present in a state of captivity, waiting to be loosed from the bondage that sin has caused.

All of creation eagerly waits for the healing and glorious liberty of the children of God.

But not only will the children of God be delivered from the slavery of the rotting putrefaction of sin, but everything created will be delivered. Thank God, we will be set free. The whole creation will be set free from the slavery of the bondage. Not only will I be set free from this body of sin, but the whole creation is to be set free.

Do you know Him today as your Savior? Have you asked Him to come into your heart? You need to be set free right now. You need to be set free knowing there's something about knowing Jesus Christ as our Savior. One day we'll be totally set free from sin as a Christian, but today, you as a person who's never trusted Jesus as your Savior, you can be set free, knowing in your mind and your heart that you're on your way to Heaven. There's something about knowing Jesus Christ, that moment that places the joy of the Lord in your heart, knowing that you have trusted Him as your Savior and you're on your way to Heaven. Ask Him to come into your heart. The Lord wants to save you today.

And if you are saved, you need to be living for Him, letting Him lead you and guide you through this life.

It's been good being with you today and let me ask you to look at our Website, www.LRWM.org. On the Website, you'll be able to download this program and a transcript of this program of "It's a Good Life." Let me remind you that you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731.

Until the next time when you hear me say it's a good life, may the Lord bless you richly in my prayer.