A New Power in Life

Romans 8:1-13

Introduction:

Dr. Ryrie’s Outline:

Chapter 8 is not dealing with Justification (Salvation), but with Sanctification (Salvation)

In chapter 7, he describes his weakness in the area of the Christian life. He sees himself as living in a condemned house – his body. He is under bondage to the “Law of sin in my members,” (7:14)

Remember: Paul cried,

Question: “O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Answer:I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Rather Romans 7 describes the spiritual death house in which Paul senses his bondage to the law of sin, (7:24), and this is the condemnation against which he has struggled in vain in that chapter. It is the condemnation of one who feels sold under sin, (7:14).

I. The Deliverance from Sin – 8:1–9

A. The Emancipation Proclamation – 8:1-2

“T*here is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

This verse is, for some, one of the main-proofs for eternal security. Therefore, they want to delete the last 16 words because “they have been interpolated from verse 4.

But, the topic here is not Justification. Paul dealt with that in Chapters 1-5. In Chapter 7 Paul dealt with his struggle with “the law of sin in my members.” As long as Paul was attempting to fight the battle by his mind alone, he failed.

The word, condemnation, should be translated “doom” or “penal-servitude”. The believer who is walking according to the Spirit will be living a victorious life. It does not have to be otherwise.

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” (8:2)

Paul has found another law—“The law of the Spirit of life.” It has set Paul free from the “The law of sin and death.”

B. The Emancipation Revelation – 8:3-4

1. God did something the Law could not do – 8:3a

“For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh,”

The Law was weak through our flesh. It could point out our sin, but it couldn’t help us overcome it. It pointed out the sin, but then Paul was left alone to overcome the sin and he failed.

2. That something was to make Possible a Holy Life – 8:3b-4

“God *did* [this] by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin:” (3)

Notice the word likeness: there was no sin in Him. That sinless life condemns us. His death saves us.

“that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (4)

The emphasis of Chapter 7 is “I, me and my” Paul was trying to do it all himself. The emphasis of Chapter 8 is Holy Spirit--That name occurs 19 times in Chapter 8. The new Lord in the believer’s life is the Holy Spirit.

C. The Emancipation Explanation – 8:5–8

1. A Contrast of Attitudes – 8:5-6

a. Living According to the Flesh – 8:5a

“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,”

* Abraham marrying Hagar;
* Lot choosing Sodom;
* Moses smiting the Egyptian;
* Solomon’s political marriages;
* Jonah fleeing to Tarshish;
* Peter slicing Malchus’ ear off.

b. Living According to the Spirit – 8:5b-6

“but those *who live* according to the Spirit, (mind) the things of the Spirit.”

The only way to avoid the mistakes of the carnal mind is to have the Mind of Christ. (Phil. 2:5) The only way to have the mind of Christ *is* to allow the Spirit of Christ to control the mind.

“For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.” (6)

Paul now makes a general statement,

* Carnally minded = death
* Spiritually minded = life and peace.

In this context (sanctification) he is not making a distinction between believers an unbelievers, but between spiritual and unspiritual believers.

2. Contrast of Actions – 8:7-8

“Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

The carnal mind is an enemy of God. It cannot and will not please God. So, if we are living in the flesh (carnal mind) we cannot please God. Paul is writing to believers. (See 1:7) They are “called ones” and “saints.”

D. Emancipation Participation – 8:9-13

The emancipation proclamation has been issued. But, many believers are not participating in that freedom.

1. Deliverance as a Believer – 8:9

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.” *Just in case someone has missed this point, Paul says:* “Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

This sentence is important since there are some who teach that we don’t receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, e.g. that He is received at some later time; much like the experience of the disciples of Jesus. [Read v. 9b again.]

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 fits well here,

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body…”

2. Deliverance from the Body – 8:10-11

The Believer has Two Natures – Old and New

“And since Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.” (10)

The body is dead - it can’t please God. The body was not redeemed as salvation of the soul.

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“But since the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” (11)

It (body) will not be redeemed until the resurrection of the dead at the Rapture of the church. (1 Cor. 15) At that time we will receive a resurrected, glorified body.

The use of the name “Jesus” (v. 11) is of interest here, the only other place in the epistle where this single title is used is 3:26. The name “Jesus,” of course, was Christ’s human name. Paul wants to call attention to the fact that Jesus was once in the place of weakness.

At the incarnation He laid aside the use of His Omni-attributes: He didn’t look like God; He didn’t act like God.

But God raised Him from the dead by the Spirit. The same Spirit who raised Jesus is dwelling in us! While these verses primarily refer to the coming resurrection, they imply also that the Holy Spirit can give us victory over the law of our members even now.

3. Deliverance from Bondage – 8:12-13

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.”

We still have the body. We use the body to survive physically; and use its members to serve the Lord. We do not climb the “Scalla” steps in Rome on our knees in repentance. We don’t starve the body in order to defeat it. It is not the body that is the enemy, but sin using the body for sinful practices, that is the problem.

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die;” (13a)

There are Two Possible Kinds of Death:

* Physical Death - there is a sin unto death (1 John 5)
* Spiritual Death - loss of fellowship, 1) with the Lord and, 2) with His people, the church.

“but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.” (13b)

We can see here that the enemy is the deeds (visible and invisible) not the physical body itself. Those deeds that we allow by our body are our responsibility. We are totally responsible and totally incapable of success,

However: the Holy Spirit Who indwells us stands ever ready and exceedingly able to help us live a successful Christian life.