

# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

## Romans 8:1-17

### Lesson 9

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. From last week's lesson or lecture, how were you encouraged by the superiority of our relationship with Jesus rather than with the law?

2. Do you want to hear some great news? Here it is, *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*. That's right! Those who are *in Christ* are free from the condemnation of sin and the law. The Hebrews in Egypt were saved from death by remaining in a house covered by the blood of a lamb. So now, those covered by the blood of Jesus are saved from condemnation by remaining *in Christ*!

The law identified our sin, but was helpless to keep us from sinning or to make us righteous. Our lives were marked by the constant frustration of wanting to obey the law, but always failing in one area or another. Then Jesus made all the difference! He lived the righteous life we could not live. He died as a sacrifice for the sins we committed. He willed His righteousness to us. Now we who are *in Christ* receive His righteousness as a covering and empowering against sin. In Romans 8:1-17 Paul contrasted our new position *in Christ* with our former position *in the flesh*. Use the Scriptures below to highlight a few of these contrasts:

- a. Romans 8:1-4
  - b. Romans 8:5-8
  - c. Romans 8:9-11
  - d. Romans 8:12-17
3. Ask God to enliven your mind to the glory of being *in Christ*.

*For there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.*

Romans 8:1

**SECOND DAY:** Read Romans 8:1–4

1. Use Romans 8:1a to fill in the blanks: *There is therefore now* \_\_\_\_\_  
*to those who are* \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. The Greek word for condemnation is *katakrima*, which means *penalty* or *punishment of guilt*. What does this declaration mean to you personally?
2. What did Paul declare about the *walk* of those who are *in Christ*? Romans 8:1b
- a. What do you see as the greatest distinction between these two walks?
3. Use Romans 8:2 to comment on what the *law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus* has done.
4. According to Romans 8:3a, why was the law unable to save us?
- a. How did God remedy this situation? Romans 8:3b
- (1) Connect this with John 3:16–18 and share your thoughts.
5. What is now *fulfilled in us* because of Jesus? Romans 8:4a
- a. What is required of believers in order to receive this benefit? Romans 8:4b
- (1) Link this with Galatians 5:16 and share any insights you receive.
6. In light of your study today, read the following poem by John Bunyan and share your thoughts:  
*To run and work the law commands,  
Yet gives me neither feet nor hands;  
But better news the Gospel brings:  
It bids me fly, and gives me wings.*

**THIRD DAY:** Read Romans 8:5–8

1. According to Romans 8:5a, what is the mindset of those who *live according to the flesh*?
  - a. Use the following verses to identify the thoughts of this mindset:
    - (1) Matthew 16:23
    - (2) Romans 1:21
    - (3) Philippians 3:19
  - (a) From your own observations list some examples of the thoughts/ambitions that characterize those walking after *the flesh*.
2. Romans 8:5b states that *those who live according to the Spirit* set their minds on *the things of the Spirit*. Use the following Scriptures to describe this mindset:
  - a. Philippians 4:8–9
  - b. Colossians 3:2
3. From Romans 8:6 document the outcome of being:
  - a. *Carnally minded*
  - b. *Spiritually minded*
4. Use Romans 8:7 to comment on the dangers of the *carnal mind*.
  - a. Link this with James 4:4. What do you see?
5. What is ultimately impossible for those who live according to *the flesh*? Romans 8:8
  - a. How is this both a warning and a motivation for believers?
6. The Bible has much to say about the importance of how and what we think. Why do you think a spiritual mindset is essential for victory over sin?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Romans 8:9-11

1. Read Romans 8:9 (NLT). *But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to Him at all.)* How does this verse underscore the power of Christ living in you?
  - a. Share a way you would encourage another believer with this verse.
  - b. What did Paul make clear in Romans 8:9b?
2. According to Romans 8:10, if *Christ is in you* what is true of:
  - a. *The body*
  - b. *The Spirit*
3. What is the hope of those who have *the Spirit*? Romans 8:11
  - a. Connect this with Ephesians 1:19-21. How does this enhance your understanding of the power of Christ in believers?
4. Share a way that *the Spirit of God* dwelling in every believer affects:
  - a. How you live your life
  - b. Your perspective of other believers

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Romans 8:12–17

1. When Paul declared in Romans 8:12 that we are not *debtors* to the *flesh*, he was stating that we are under no obligation to our sinful nature and its desires. Why is this an important truth to apply to our lives as believers?
2. Use Romans 8:13 to contrast what happens when we live *by the Spirit* as opposed to living *according to the flesh*.
  - a. Why do we need the Spirit in order to *put to death the deeds of the body*?
3. From Romans 8:14–17 comment on the blessings of receiving the *Spirit of God*:
  - a. Verse 14
    - (1) Link this with 2 Timothy 1:7 and share your thoughts.
  - b. Verse 15
    - (1) From the following verses note how suffering is inherent to being *heirs of God*:
      - (a) John 15:18–20
      - (b) 2 Corinthians 4:16–18
      - (c) Philippians 3:10
      - (d) 2 Timothy 2:11–12
  - c. Verse 16
  - d. Verse 17
4. Drawing from your present situation, which of the blessings you studied today ministers to you the most?

## SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week in Romans 8:1–17, comment on the following benefits of living *in Christ*:
  - a. No condemnation (Romans 8:1)
  - b. Freedom (Romans 8:2–3)
  - c. Righteousness (Romans 8:4)
  - d. The Spirit (Romans 8:5,9,13)
  - e. Life and peace (Romans 8:6, 10–11)
  - f. Adoption (Romans 8:14–17)
2. What is your response to knowing that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.*  
Romans 8:16