

Romans 8

1 'Therefore' goes back to being rescued from that condition by Jesus Christ our Lord. If we are IN Christ we should not be under condemnation. Our sins are covered by the blood of Christ. We have a new Master of our thoughts and actions. Look now again at verse 7:25 and the next verse 2 and see if that is not what Paul is saying. I have been liberated. The KJV adds, "Who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." 4th and 5th century manuscripts do not have the phrase. It appears first in a third correction of the 6th Century BAZAE text. It is a Scriptural statement. If you are in Christ, you walk after the Spirit, not the flesh. Romans 5:1; John 3:18

2 The law (rule) of the Spirit of life is at work in me bringing good fruits. The law (rule) of sin and death was producing condemnation and a fear of certain judgment. Now I am free from that fear and free to serve as a slave to the Spirit, married to Christ, not the Law. That inner conflict is resolved for I have a new Master, and function THROUGH Him. I am free now to do what I know is right. Galatians 5:1 Paul compares living under the law (7:21) in the flesh to slavery, a condition many of his readers were in – that is, others telling you what to do and when to do it. 1Thessalonians 3:8; 1Peter 2:16

3 The Law (the Levitical Law) could not make me right with God, it only pointed out how sinful I am. If my very nature wasn't sinful I wouldn't have this inner conflict of wanting to act according to the Law but always ending up acting contrary to it. Since my nature is sinful and the Law does nothing to change it, I need someone to redeem me and give me hope. God did it, sending his own Son to pay the ransom for my sins in a body like mine. He was the ultimate fulfillment of the sin offerings of the Old Testament. He lived a perfect life showing us what it is to be a man led by the Spirit. The power the Law lacked came with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He became like me that I might become like Him. He condemned sin in sinful man - God's just sentence on sin was carried out on the cross. So we should live like verse 4. Romans 7:5-6

4 We can follow that example because we have nailed the sinful nature to the cross with Jesus and risen to a new life, living according to the Spirit. We can meet the righteous requirements of the Law by obeying the Spirit of the Law. vs3 God sent his Son so ... in order that... It sounds like the reason for Jesus coming was so that we could live according to the Spirit, which would meet the requirements of the Law. We tend to look at Jesus coming in a sense that he saved us from hell. That is half of salvation. He saved us from our sinful nature we were enslaved to so we could be controlled by the Spirit and really know Life. Jude 1:24

5 'set' Colossians 3:1&2, Where is our mind SET? Are we fixing our eyes on Jesus? Or are we fixing our eyes on what is seen? Where is your desire?

Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes or Jesus the Lamb of God. How can I get, win, have... or how can I please the One who has done so much for me? Paul talks like things are black and white, no in-between. I like his style, for it is the Holy Spirit's style. Holy is not mixed! What does the Spirit desire today in my life? Where is my mind set? John 3:6

6 Here he goes again with this one or the other! The rebellious are controlled by the spirit of death and won't come to life and peace. Are we liberated mentally? Liberation is to have thoughts controlled by Jesus. Yes, mind control. You know why? Because He created us with the intent of lovingly yielding our thoughts to One far more capable. Submitted servants don't plan their own life or their happiness. When we submit our thoughts to His control we find harmony with the new creation within us and have peace. This is what Jesus came to do for us, help our thoughts be controlled by the Holy Spirit. 1Corinthians 2:16

7 An alternate translation is "a mind set on the flesh" and that would fit here as well. That is why there must be a renewing of the mind when we come to Christ. The New Creature gives control of his mind to the Savior. It is a constant surrender of personal lordship to His Lordship made possible by the resurrection! You are controlled by the sinful nature or by the Spirit. Ephesians 4:24

8 We sometimes think human effort can bring obedience or submission. That was the Pharisees fatal error. It is not possible for sinful man to please God. He must yield to the source outside himself or maybe I should say inside his regenerate spirit where Christ now dwells. Who is controlling you? Whose at the wheel? Whose mind do you have? Where are your thoughts set? Only Jesus is pleasing to God. Only His life in you and demonstrated through you can please God. Matthew 3:17

9 Do you see Paul's insistence on one or the other, no shades of gray? How does this fit with your Theology? the last chapter? Paul is insisting that if you have the Spirit of God living in you, you cannot be controlled by the sinful nature. You can only have the Spirit of God/Christ (notice the switch there) if you belong to Christ. Many claim to belong to Christ but are not controlled by the Spirit? It doesn't mean you can't err, but it does say your controlling power is not the old nature. Ezekiel 36:26-27

10 God says, "wanted dead and alive" no half way compromising, a little of this and a little of that. Serve God through the Spirit or live for the sinful nature. God is holy, and if He is in you He wants you to live holy, not taking Him through the garbage your flesh would like to visit. Would you take Jesus to some of the movies you see? You take him to all the movies you see! Would you put Him down like you put down some brothers? You always do when you talk down to a brother or sister in Christ! Is your goal personal pleasure, or pleasing the Lord? I have no desire to condemn you or me but I do have a desire to open our eyes to what Paul is saying. Go all the way in death on the cross and resurrection to

NEW life! The old is gone, dead, buried, the new has come. 2Corinthians 5:17 consider this verse - IF Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin (nailed to the cross), yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness (you share the righteousness with the resurrected Lord, raised with Him to newness of life) 2Corinthians 4:11

11 This is not after you die. It is your mortal body right now! Jesus on the inside, working on the outside, oh what a change in my life! I died with Christ, and the same resurrection power is in me because He is in me. My mortal body has LIFE in it. LIFE to do God's will and let Him work through me. Ephesians 2:5 Galatians 2:20 This body (soma) is alive by the Spirit not the soul.

12 Obligated - we owe the sinful nature nothing. Keep it on the cross.

13 Paul shared his obligation to preach in chapter one and now he is sharing all of our obligation. It is not to live according to the sinful nature which brings death, but BY THE SPIRIT (in contrast to human effort and yet is something - you- do) PUT TO DEATH the misdeeds of the body. (present active see ISV 'continually') This is what I owe, my debt, my obligation to God. How do I, by the Spirit, put to death the misdeeds of the body? 1Peter 2:1 Colossians 3:8-10 By letting the Spirit control my mind, and surrendering my will to the Spirit. That is to possess life - to really live.

14 Are we led by the Spirit? Here is Paul's definition of a son of God. He didn't say did you say the sign was a certain prayer, or that you went through the four spiritual laws, or Romans road. He states a fact. If you are led by the Spirit you are a son of God! Notice the power to be led by the Spirit when you look at John 1:12 with this verse. Believing gives us the power to become led by the Spirit, but we must submit to His control.

15 Mark 14:36 I believe Paul learned the use of Abba for God from the other Apostles. We have a new attitude toward God. We have gone from fearing judgement to seeing a loving Daddy. (Abba is Aramaic for Daddy) This is the attitude of a child that Jesus talked about. We are sure of our Father's love because He has paid for our debt so we could be in his presence, so He could live with us. We don't assert our independence for we are dependant children. The spirit of the world says assert your will and get your way, me first. The Spirit of sonship, or adoption says, "Thank you daddy for loving me and caring for me." Same as Galatians 4:6 In Roman and Greek society fathers gave their sons to an educated slave to train them in the ways and spirit of their father. Once they were trained (14-16 years old) they were adopted by their own father and shared in his work. Until that time came the child was loved but had no say – he was the same status as a slave. After adoption he is a son with rights. That runs behind these terms child and son. There is a current sense of adoption and an ultimate one in the future. See verse 19 which alludes to the coming out party after the adoption so that all recognize the child is now a son.

16,17 Here is the mind boggler of all mind bugglers. Since we were born, the second time into His family, we have all the privileges of a son. A son of a king is a prince and the daughter a princess. Christ is our brother. Although the firstborn (according to the Law) would inherit 2/3rds of the estate the others would receive 1/3rd. What is 1/3rd of God's estate? Do you remember in Luke 15 the inheritance can be divided while the father lives? Starting to get a glimpse? Now IF we share in his sufferings...He learned obedience through the things He suffered. Are you? If so, you may also share in His glory. This is one of those statements in Scripture where the mind cannot fully comprehend the wonder of what is being written. God's glory is the outshining of His attributes. Share in that? Too wonderful for comprehension! John 17:1; 2Thessalonians 2:14