

## Romans 8:1-17 Tony Hewson

### Summary of Passage

Those who walk in the Spirit are no longer under condemnation whereas those who walk in the flesh remain under the sentence of death There are two laws operating in mankind The law of sin of sin and death – this is the law that the natural man is under.

The law of the spirit of life – this is the law that works only in the believer, those who have been united with Christ.

Two competing natures motivating forces in the life of the believer - the flesh and the spirit The flesh – the nature inherited from Adam The spirit – the new nature that was created in us by the new birth through the agency of the Holy Spirit.

His exhortation is to yield submission to the law of life and fight against the law of sin.

Important Terms we need to understand

Justification by faith alone

Is a gospel that exalts the grace of God I was totally lost that God loved me I was totally depraved but God loved me I was a rebel against God but he loved me Though I had done nothing to merit his favour God sent his son to earth because he loved me Christ lived life of righteousness on my behalf because he loved me He died on the cross for my sins because he loved me His body was laid in the grave and his soul descended into Hades because he loved me He rose from the dead and I share and will share in that resurrection because he loved me He ascended into heaven and now intercedes for me because he loved me That is all God's unmerited grace and favour Not just that but when I first heard these things I rejected them until God by his Spirit produced faith in my heart to believe them and to understand the truth of the gospel – that also is grace I was changed and became for what I was once against because God gave me a new heart and a new nature – again by his grace not by my meriting his favour He has brought me to Christ and will keep me in Christ.

Sanctification – setting apart (for God) God has not only saved us from the judgment our sin deserves but he is also freeing us from the power of sin in this life and will eventually deliver us from the presence of sin forever in the new heavens and earth.

Unlike justification in which we can do nothing to save ourselves – not of works less any man should boast – sanctification is process that does involve our activity.

The process we are involved in is something called mortification – putting to death our 'flesh'

Jesus described it as gouging out our eye or cutting off our hand or foot Mark 9:43 Paul described it as keeping the body under 1 Corinthians 9:27 (Greek – beat or bruise) As today's passage exhorts us, we can choose to walk in the Spirit, following the desires of our new nature which cannot sin and has no desire to sin, or we can follow the desires of our old nature – the flesh.

The Flesh

"In the flesh" describes a person's standing and state before God; "living after the flesh" describes his direction and behaviour. The one inevitably follows and corresponds to the other: a person's character and conduct agree with his condition and case.

The flesh is radically and wholly evil: as Romans 7:18, declares, there is "no good thing" in it.

It is beyond reclamation, being incapable of any improvement.

It may indeed put on a religious garb, as did the Pharisees, but beneath is nothing but rotteness.

The "flesh" continually opposes what is good and motivates us to do what is evil in God's eyes.

To "walk after" or to "live after the flesh" is for a person to conduct himself as do all the unregenerate, who are dominated, motivated and actuated by nothing but their fallen nature.

To "live after the flesh" refers not to a single act, nor even to a habit or a series of acts in one direction; but rather to the whole person being governed and guided by this vile principle.

This is true for all who are out of Christ: their desires, thoughts, speech and deeds all proceed from this corrupt fount. It is by the flesh that the whole of their souls are set in motion and their entire course steered. All is directed by some fleshly consideration. They act from self, they act for self, The glory of God is nothing to them, the flesh is all in all.

The flesh is a dynamical, active, ambitious principle, and so it is spoken of as a lusting thing. We read of "the lusts of the flesh," of "the wills of the flesh" (Eph. 2:3 —margin) for its desires are fervent and commanding "But [indwelling] sin, taking occasion [being aggravated] by the commandment ["thou shalt not covet"], wrought in me all manner of concupiscence" [or "lust"] (Romans 7:8).

Education and culture may result in a refined exterior; family training and other influences may lead to religious behaviour, as is seen at times with the great majority of a nation; selfish considerations may

If you are new or visiting; a special warm welcome to you. We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

### This Morning

Speaker Tony Hewson

### This Evening

- JCF 5.00pm
- Creation Evangelism 7.00pm

### Next Sunday

14 June. Nick Brennan.  
Romans 8

### Thursday Kidz Club

6:30 - 8:00 pm  
7 - 12 year olds  
Ph: Allan Maguire - 4767197

### Coming Up

### Planning Meeting 8th June 7.30pm All Saints Hall.

Please advise the elders of any items you wish to have added to the agenda.

### Prayer Items

Please give prayerful consideration to the upcoming OAC outreach endeavour and thought to activities that our we can be involved in.

**Papua New Guinea.** Praise God for the opening this week of the new hospital at Anguanak. There is much to praise God for as New Zealanders have been associated with this hospital since started in the early 1960's. Pray that the hospital will continue to be blessing in the surrounding area.

**Helen,** now in New Zealand. Pray for Helen as she settles back to New Zealand and as the matters that brought her back home are sorted through. Pray especially for those women back in Nicaragua who are now leading the New Image Ministry. They need God's wisdom and strength.

