

The Witness of Paul: Romans 8

Over the next two classes, we will spend the majority of our time discussing Romans 8. As Stephen mentioned in class on Wednesday, Romans 8 provides a conclusion to Paul's message in chapters 5-7. The main contrast that Paul illustrates is between the weakness of the law and the power of the Spirit. Nestled within this chapter is critical teachings on resurrection. Reading **Romans 5-8** will be extremely beneficial in preparation for this class. On Sunday, we will primarily focus on **Romans 8:1-17**.

Sunday, 8/23

- 1) In your opinion, what makes studying the book of Romans so difficult, particularly Romans 8?

- 2) What two great blessings are given to those who are "*in Christ Jesus*", according to **8:1-2**?

- 3) In **8:3-4**, Paul indicates *what God did* in five different expressions:
 - a. *He sent his own Son* (consider 5:8, 10)
 - b. The Son became a human being, *in the likeness of sinful flesh*
 - c. God sent his Son *to be a sin offering*
 - d. God *condemned sin in the flesh*
 - e. God sent his Son and condemned sin *in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*

- 4) What does Paul have in mind when he uses the terms "*flesh*", "*Spirit*", and "*walk*"?

- 5) List the parallel phrases that Paul describes with each type of walk in **8:5-9**. Consider the tension between '*flesh*' and '*Spirit*' in **Gal 5:16-26** & **Col 3:1-14**.

Walk according to the flesh vs Walk according to the Spirit

- 6) According to **8:9**, if one is "*in the Spirit*", what must be in you? If you do not belong to Christ, what is absent?

- 7) Why do we have a dying, physical body but also a living spirit (8:10)? Consider Romans 5:15-18,21 & 6:10-13.
- 8) If the Spirit dwells in a Christian, what is the blessing that will be received (8:11)?
- 9) What will our resurrection mimic? Who will raise us? Who will give us life? Note the connection between v10, that “the body is dead” and “life will be given to your mortal bodies”.
- 10) Consider Ezek. 37:1-14. Is this is same Spirit that gives life in Romans 8?
- 11) If Christians receive this blessing (bodily resurrection), then what is our obligation (8:12-13)?
- 12) There are four characteristics of the children of God who are led by the Spirit of God:
 - a. Spirit leads to holiness (v.14)
 - b. Spirit replaces fear with freedom in our relationship with God (v.15)
 - c. Through our prayers, the Spirit prompts us to call God, ‘Abba, Father’ (v.15)
 - d. Spirit bears witness of our hope of glory (v.16-17)