

7 PILLARS OF BLESSING FROM BEING

IN CHRIST

ROMANS, CHAPTER 8

2nd Pillar of Blessing from being In Christ

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Church*

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Romans 8:2-13 KJV “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

The blessings that are found in Romans 8 are for those who are in Christ and walking after the Spirit (life regulated by the Holy Spirit). The first blessing was ‘no condemnation’ for those who know Christ as their personal Savior. Christ has paid the penalty for his sins so he is no longer under the penalty or sentence of death.

Now, we come to the second pillar of blessing found in the eight chapter of Romans, which is ‘Freedom to live.’

Romans 8:2-4 KJV “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

I. Those who are in Christ _____ from sin and death

Not only have the believer been set free from the penalty or sentence of sin, but has been set free from sin and death.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus means the life that one has received from the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no spiritual life outside of Jesus Christ. There is no freedom from sin and death outside Jesus Christ. He is the only One that can give life to the person who is spiritually dead.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Ephesians 2:1-2¶ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The Holy Spirit gives life to the believer so he has been set free from the power and predominance of sin and death. The power of sin and death over the believer has been removed. Since sin no longer has any power over the believer, he can now be free to live for the Lord.

In verse 3, it shows how the Law could not save a person. All it could do was point out the sinfulness of the person, but could not save him. The Law was powerless to bring about salvation. God intervened and sent His only Son who fulfilled the Law and died for our sins. The fact that He had to die for our sins condemns our sinful nature and deeds. The phrase “and for sin” is referring to the sacrifice that He made for the sins of the world on the cross of Calvary.

The Law was weak but Christ was strong in bring salvation to those who believe on Him as their Saviour.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 KJV “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

II. Those who are not in Christ _____ God

Romans 8:5-8 KJV “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

A. Contrast between _____ minded and _____ minded

- Carnal minded means to be under the control of the flesh, sinful nature of man.
- Spiritual minded means to be under the control of the Holy Spirit who points him to the things of God.

B. Contrast between a life of the _____ and life of the _____

Romans 8:6 KJV “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

John 5:24 KJV “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”

Romans 6:23 KJV “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:1-2 KJV “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”

C. Contrast between the _____ of the _____ and the _____ of the _____

Galatians 5:16-26 KJV “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temper-

ance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

The believer is under the control of the Holy Spirit has a drive, guide, and strength to do the things of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

D. Contrast between _____ and _____

Genesis 4:1-8 KJV "And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the Lord. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him."

Abel and Cain, though brothers, were different in what regulated their life.

- Both wanted to please God but only one did.
- Both tried to please God but only one did.
- Both brought a sacrifice to the Lord but only one was accepted.

Why?

A man can try all he wants to please the Lord. But, there is only one way he can please the Lord and this is through a life of faith.

Hebrews 11:1-6 KJV "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

III. Those who are in Christ have the _____

Romans 8:9-11 KJV “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Verse 9 is very easy to understand. Those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them are in Christ. But, those who do not have the Spirit of Christ within them, they are not the children of God. The Greek word, dwell, is oikeo which means to take up residence. It is the same concept that we have of living at home.

The believer has the indwelling Spirit of God within his life.

1 Corinthians 3:16 KJV “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

2 Timothy 1:14 KJV “That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”

Verses 10-11 speak of the resurrecting power of the Holy Spirit that in the life of the believer this physical body is going to die but the spirit that resides in it will continue to live. And God will give that spirit a new glorified body in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 KJV “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

IV. Those who are in Christ and walk after the Spirit can

Romans 8:12-13 KJV “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

The word therefore is bringing a conclusion to what Paul has been saying. He is summing up the contrast between the carnal life and the spiritual life. If a person continues down the carnal life, living after the flesh, it will end in death, both spiritual and physical.

But, if the person believes in Christ as his Savior, he will end in life.

Notice the final statement here. If you through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live. In other words, the Holy Spirit enables, strengthens, indwells, and guides the believer into a life of holiness. If through the power of the Holy Spirit, a person puts to death the sinful deeds of the body, he will be happy and saved.

V. Lessons

The second pillar of blessing on the believer in Romans 8 is 'freedom to live' for Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God frees the believer from sin and death so he can now live for the Lord.

Can a person live a holy life? Absolutely through the power of the Holy Spirit!