

ROMANS 8

GREAT CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE



A study at Faith Lutheran, Sharpsburg, Georgia, 2009 AD

Luther wrote on Romans, “This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament, and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.” Paul’s primary theme in Romans is showing us God’s plan of salvation is for Jew and Gentile alike. Specifically in chapter 8, we find that we have life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE BOOK

Author

Paul

Purpose

God’s salvation plan for fledging believers
Prepare Rome as base for mission work
Be mutually encouraged by one another’s faith

Recipients

House churches (Romans 16)
Gentiles and Jews

Important Passages

The righteous will live by faith (1:17)
Man justified by faith apart from law (3:28)
Faith comes from hearing the message (10:17)

Paul’s Writings

Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians,
Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2
Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, and
Philemon

THE TIMES

Paul probably wrote this letter while in Corinth on his third missionary journey, near 57 A.D. He was almost ready to head to Rome, but he feels the need to first deliver the Jerusalem offering.

Paul had been planting churches in Asia Minor in places like Ephesus, Phillipi, Thessalonica, and Corinth. With this work now completed, Paul turns his attention towards missionary work to the West, to Rome and regions beyond, including Spain. We see (1:13-15) that Paul has eagerly desired for a long time to come to Rome and to visit the believers there.

THE BACKGROUND

The first three chapters of Romans demonstrate that all mankind is unrighteous. Paul then shows in chapters 4 and 5 that one is righteous only by receiving Christ’s righteousness by faith.

Chapters 6 and 7 show believers living lives of sanctification. Since believers have been declared not guilty of their sin because of Christ’s righteousness, they are now freed from sin’s control (chapter 6) and the law’s condemnation (chapter 7). Chapter 8 details how believers live as the Spirit lives in them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Verse 2 details that we have been set free from “the law of sin and death.” Look at Galatians 3:25 and explain our relationship to the law before Christ.
2. Verse 3 says God “condemned sin in sinful man.” Can you think of any ways we are protected against the devil’s attacks? (hint – Ephesians 6:11-18)
3. Verse 6 shows us that the mindset of sinful man is “death.” How do you see that mindset in the world today?
4. Verse 8 says that those controlled by the sinful nature “cannot please God.” Can you think of two brothers in Genesis where one didn’t please God?
5. Verse 9 is often quoted by Pentecostal churches as proof that without visible demonstrations of the Holy Spirit, one is not a Christian. How would you respond?
6. In what ways does verse 10 picture the struggle of a Christian’s daily life?
7. Looking at verse 11, how does knowing that the Holy Spirit gives us life to live as Christians motivate us to do good deeds?
8. Verse 12 says we have an “obligation.” How does a believer view this obligation?
9. How can Christians daily, as verse 13 says, “put to death the misdeeds of the body?”
10. What kinds of comfort can believers have knowing in verse 14 that we are led by God?
11. Looking at verse 15 we see a believer comes to the Lord in prayer as a child comes to his father. Can an unbeliever rightly pray the Lord’s Prayer?
12. List some blessings we receive being a son, not a slave.
13. How is verse 16 a comfort and an encouragement to believers?
14. Describe the mindset of believers to suffering in this world, according to verse 17.

CONCLUSION

Romans 8 shows us to be sons of God, not slaves to sin. This fact is produced by Jesus’ sacrificial offering on the cross (2-3), enlivened by the Holy Spirit’s presence (11), and empowered by the Holy Spirit’s direction (14).

Believers now can come to their God as a loving Father (16) and live their lives willingly undertaking the sufferings on this world (17a), knowingly we will experience the glory of heaven (17b).

Paul builds on this concept of future glory in the following verses (18-39), showing us the deep richness of God’s love for us. God loved us so much to choose us from the beginning of the world (28-30) to be his own. This future glory motivates us to handle the trials and tribulations of this world (35-39), knowing nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (39).

Romans 9 illustrates the beauty of God’s mercy in election and the foolishness of man in rejecting God’s grace.

Therefore, believers should in the same way not be idle either, much less resist the impetus of God’s Spirit, but should practice all Christian virtues, godliness, modesty, moderation, patience, and love for one another- and should diligently seek to “confirm their call and election” [2 Peter 1:10], so that the more they recognize the Spirit’s power and strength in themselves, the less they doubt their election. For God’s Spirit testifies to the elect that they are “God’s children” [Romans 8:14-17].

Formula of