

A Gospel Worldview – Lesson 8

Living in the Spirit

Romans 8:1-17

What is your ultimate goal in life?

Introduction: I'm sure as you look back on time, you will see how your ultimate goal has changed over your lifetime. This passage describes what it is like to Live in the Spirit vs Living in the Flesh. Thus, our focus is either on self or it is on God.

Understanding Two Greek Words:

Sarx – Flesh

Paul uses this word in three different ways.

1. Physical circumcision
2. Human point of view
3. Human nature in all it's weaknesses and tendency to sin.(Spiritual Condition) All that man is without God.

Pneuma – Spirit – A divine power. (In old testament it might be described as a powerful wind.)

A. Escape from Spiritual Death (Romans 8:1-4)

Therefore – Those in Christ are not condemned. Christ provided through his sacrifice what the law could not do. While Jesus was human he provided the perfect sacrifice because he did not submit to sin.

B. Your Mind Set Matters (Romans 8:5-8)

1. A mind controlled by self.
What type of mind-set can people have that is focused on Self?
(Ambition, pride, lust, passion, envy, etc. Those things that can absorb a person who does not have Christ.)
2. A Mind Controlled by the Spirit – What does it mean to be controlled by the spirit? The will of Christ is his only law.

A person who is only focused on self and not God, cannot please God. (Hostile to God)

C. Assurance of Living with the Spirit today and in the Future (Romans 8:9-11)

1. It is impossible to Live in the spirit and be controlled by the sinful nature. If you live according to your sinful nature, you do not have Christ.
2. If you live according to the Spirit of God, you will overcome death.

D. Our Responsibility (Romans 8:12-13)

1. Our response to Christ is not optional. It is required.
2. We overcome sin when we depend on God's power not our power that is focused on self.
3. We will continue to sin, but by following the spirit, we are given the ability to overcome sin by following Christ. (And, through Grace and Mercy.)

Two different interpretations:

1. Armenian belief – If you are a Christian and live by your sinful nature, you will lose your salvation.
2. Calvinist belief – If you are a Christian, you do not have a choice, you will live by the spirit.

Final Thoughts:

1. A Christian has the Spirit in their lives and therefore it is impossible to be controlled by your sinful nature. Or, it is impossible to live according to your sinful nature and be a Christian. (Carnal)
2. There are a lot of people who believe that they are Christians, but are not! They do not have the spirit of Christ. (Born into Christian Homes, attend a church, Believe in God but live as if he does not exist.)
3. Romans 8:14-17 – You are a child of God!