

Romans #076

“Practical Christian Living”

Introduction to *Romans* 6-8

“Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it's been found difficult and not tried.”

G.K. Chesterton

“It is not what men eat but what they digest that makes them strong; not what we gain but what we save that makes us rich; not what we read but what we remember that makes us learned; not what we preach but what we practice that makes us Christians.”

The good news is: God has provided a righteous standing before Him apart from the Law through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone, through whom God has provided redemption for mankind, Jew and pagan Gentile alike.

God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, so where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.

The human solution is no solution at all; only the divine solution has lasting value.

Our spiritual life begins when we express faith alone in Christ alone as Savior which begins a process of spiritual feeding on biblical truth, adopting the mind of Christ, in a life not dependent upon circumstances, eternally focused and experientially blessed.

We're not saved only to go to Heaven but also to live a full life today, glorifying God here and now, witnessing for Him and growing up spiritually.

But when we are justified and receive the imputation of God's righteousness, being born-again in Christ, the power of our self-righteous sin nature is broken.

The choices we make, determine the life we live!

It all comes down to whether we not only believe in Jesus Christ but we also believe what He says!

The Christian life is much more than choosing not to sin, it's first and foremost, learning who we are and what we have in Christ by applying biblical truth and that's spiritual growth.

Paul will continue to refer to two choices: life or death and it's not eternal life in Heaven or eternal death in Hell but experiencing abundant life now vs. a life of insecurity.

Divine judgement solves the problem of the sin nature; first, Jesus Christ was judged for our sins on the cross *2nd Cor5:21; 1st Peter 2:24* and secondly, the believer's sins are judged in time by recovery; *1st Cor11:31; 1Jn1:9* and there's also a third judgement where the believer's human good is judged at the Bema seat.

Every believer struggles with sin and the more we grow spiritually, the more aware we become of how disgusting our sin is and how influencing it is in our thinking.

So, the challenge for the growing believer is continual reliance on Jesus Christ and His work over our vain attempts to clean up our lives.

Only when we understand and apply who we are and what we have in Christ and live by means of the Holy Spirit, can we relax in His victory.

This is a not something we experience or feel, it's a dry, yet real baptism or identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

By faith, we must learn what it means to be a new creature in Christ.

As usual, Paul places high priority on knowing something and not simply knowing it to improve one's outlook but knowing, understanding and applying the truth and being totally set free by it!

Grace is NEVER a license to sin and while it's true that we're free from the penalty of sin, that doesn't mean we can sin as a lifestyle.

There are always consequences to sin.

But the good news is that God's grace is always greater than our sin.

Practical Christian living is as simple as deciding to be obedient to God and His Word and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit, using God's recovery technique when we fail.

But for the believer in rebellion; he has a death-like experience from his sin nature producing corruption, resulting in many negative consequences in life.

There's a production in spiritual growth sanctification or holiness, with the end result being eternal life—not in going to Heaven but in having the abundant life as part of our salvation package here and now.

Because we have died to the law, being joined together with Jesus Christ in His death, there is no longer a relationship to the law.

Paul isn't saying that because we are not under law we can run rampant and be lawless, he's indicating that we are not under the Mosaic Law as a standard of living.

No Gentile was ever held accountable to the Mosaic Law.

Paul's a sinner so he's dead; not spiritually dead but experientially living a zombie-like life following a Law that couldn't bring life.

The law exposes sin, so Paul is more aware that he has sinned, is sinful and still can be controlled by sin.

If we don't strengthen our mental attitude with daily intake of biblical truth, we won't know the value of the desires of the Spirit.