

ROMANS CHAPTER 8

vs. 1 Therefore – looks back to the question asked in Romans 7:24. The answer is developed in Romans 8. It deals with the Spirit’s work within us rather than Christ’s work for us.
Now – looks forward to the Holy Spirit’s ministry in our life – vs. 2. No condemnation is the result of being in the risen Christ where the Holy Spirit continues to minister on our behalf. (There are no degrees of condemnation: *in* Christ - no condemnation; *not in* Christ - under condemnation).

vs. 2 For tells us why vs. one is true. One law has replaced another law in the believer’s life now that he has been joined to the risen Savior and the Holy Spirit is at work in him.

Law – used the same way the “law of gravity” is used. It is always the same, consistent, predictable, follows an established pattern.

1. Law of sin – results in death every time Rom. 7:23
2. Law of the “Spirit of life” when someone is in Christ – results in life – every time.

Rom 7:25 is the short response to the question of vs. 24.
The law of the Spirit of life is the longer explanation.

vs. 3 How does this law work?

1. God did a thing that the Law could not do – produce a holy life (walk).

NOTE: We are no longer dealing with our salvation in whose case the LAW was also unable to contribute. Rather, we are dealing with the Christian life (walk). Heb 10:1-4;
Rom. 3:19-20

2. The LAW was unable to bring about this holy life because the flesh is “unchanged” by it. vs.7

3. God's plan Heb10:5-10 – to sanctify us did not include the use of the LAW at all. Rom. 3:21, 7:4-6.

His plan was to send His own Son who would provide the basis for this work and then to send His Holy Spirit who would apply this finished work. Rom. 6:3-10; Gal 5:16-25.

vs. 4 The requirement of the LAW, a sanctified walk, is fulfilled in us (not by us). We have no more power in ourselves to live a sanctified life than Old Testament believers had.

It is possible for us to now walk this walk because Jesus has provided the means and the Holy Spirit is able to apply it.

All that is required of us is to make the choice to walk according to the Spirit.

vs. 5 There is an old life and the new life.

Every believer is saved out of that old life (Eph. 2:3).

Every believer is under obligation to stop living the old life.

vs.-12-13. 1 Pet. 4:1-5

vs. 6 Absolute statement similar to I John 1:5. There is no “gray area” in this matter. The mind set on the flesh, world, and darkness is death with no peace, while the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

vs. 7 Why is this? Because “the mind set on the flesh”:

1. is hostile to God

2. does not subject itself to the Law of God, for it is not able to do so.

Jesus did not die to fix the flesh. Its nature cannot be changed. We were transferred into the body of Christ when we were saved. Our mindset is now to reckon ourselves dead. Rom. 6:3

vs. 8-9 And no one in the flesh can please God. Rom. 6:20-22. Any human who has the Spirit of God dwelling in him is not “in the flesh” and all believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. John 14:15-18;

1 Cor. 12:13; (John 7:37-39); Eph. 1:13-14.

1. You are not in the flesh if the Spirit of God dwells in you;

2. If the Spirit of Christ does not indwell you, you do not belong to Christ.

3. The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are one and the Same.
The Son asked that He be sent and the Father sent Him. John 15:26; Acts 2:33
4. He came to “dwell” in us.

NOTE: The flesh is not the same as “being carnal”. Those in the flesh are natural unsaved man. For a believer to set his mind on his old flesh is death.

vs. 10 “If Christ is in you...the spirit is alive because of righteousness”.

1. John 17:21-23a – they may all be one...in us; that they may be one just as We are one; I in them, and they in Me.
2. 2 Cor. 3:17-18; 5:21; Eph. 4:22-24
“though the body is (still) dead because of sin”
Rom. 4:18-24.
While we are being renewed in the inner man, we are decaying in the outer man while we await the resurrection of our body
2 Cor 4:16-18

NOTE: Sickness is that which leads up to death and is very much a part of it. Born again, spiritually renewed believers still suffer sickness and death and will until the resurrection of our body comes.

Life is the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. We live by the Spirit - Gal 5:25
2. The law of the Spirit of Life – Rom 8:2
3. The mind set on the Spirit is life – Rom 8:6
4. Christ is our life – Col 3:4 and the Spirit baptized us
Into Him – 1 Cor. 12:13

vs. 11 Our spirits have been shown to have life – now – while our bodies remain dead. They will be given life. “The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead” will raise our bodies from the dead at the rapture of the Church.
1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-57 summarizes it well.

vs. 12-13 So then brethren (believer) – based on what has just been said:

1. We were crucified with Christ breaking our connection with Adam
2. We were raised with Christ – in Christ
3. The Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us, setting us free from the law of sin and of death
4. While being physically dead, we are spiritually alive
5. Our dead bodies will be raised alive when Christ comes in the clouds for us.

This places us under an obligation with our life to live by the Spirit putting to death the deeds of the body. Gal 5:16-25
1 Cor 9:23-27

vs. 14 Those not only born by the Spirit, but also living by the Spirit, in the Spirit are the mature sons of God.

vs. 15 We have been set free from the slavery of sin to be adopted as sons Eph 1:5 & 6, with the result that we cry out “Father!”
We were not saved so that we might be placed back under the law leading to slavery again.

vs. 16 We belong to Him. He is our Father and His Spirit bears witness to this. Gal 4:4-6
Question: Do we pray to God as Lord, Jehovah, or Our Father?
What makes us choose our words?

vs. 17 Two truths:

1. If children – heirs of God, joint heirs of Christ
Gal 3:29; Eph 3:4-6; Titus 3:5-7; Heb 6:9-20, esp vs17
2. the “glory” we will enter into will reflect the extent to which we were joined to Christ in purpose in this life.

vs. 18 For I consider (reckon) Paul has concluded from all that he has seen and that he knows that “the sufferings of this present time”: (health, wealth, and prosperity are not even a thought in the mind of Paul).

1. “out of this present evil age” Gal 1:4

2. “the days are evil” Eph 5:16
3. “the world forces of this darkness” Eph 6:12
4. “in view of the present distress” 1 Cor 7:26
5. Heb 11:35-38

“are not worthy to be compared with the glory...to be”

Col 3:4; 2Thes 1:10; 1 Jn 3:2; Heb 2:10

That which is truly horrible now, no matter what it is, will seem as nothing when that glory is revealed!

- vs. 19 Lost humanity sees evolution (progression from the simple to the complex) and argues that it is good.
The rest of creation sees destruction because of sin and waits eagerly for the reveling of the sons of God.
- vs. 20 For all is vanity and chasing after the wind (Ecclesiastes).
God has made it so. Gen 3:17
“Cursed is the ground because of you.” He subjected it in hope – hope lies ahead and creation can’t wait.
It starts with the Millennium and moves from there to the new heavens and new earth.
- vs. 21 “The creation...it’s slavery to corruption” – decay, disease, suffering, death, destruction, bondage “into the freedom of the glory”.
Isa 11:6-9
- vs. 22 Labor with all its pain ends only after the birth of the child, so will the pain of the present time continue until this King and His kingdom come.
- vs. 23 Believers, possessing the first fruits, Eph. 1:13-14 (sealed with the Holy Spirit who is a pledge of our redemption) groan,
2 Cor. 5:2-5 waiting Heb 11:13, 39-40 for the redemption of our body – we are going to take our bodies with us.
1 Thes. 4:13-17
- vs.24 For We believe Rom. 8:11 and “belief” is all we have at this present time because “hope” by definition is belief in that which has not yet been seen.
Christianity is hope in Rom. 8:11 and nothing less.
1Cor. 15:16-19

vs. 25 With perseverance (not easy at times) we wait “for it” (the resurrection of our body, the completion of the work of Christ). Any christianity that stops short of the resurrection is no christianity at all!

vs. 26 In the same way that we have the first fruits vs. 23, we are recipients of the Spirit’s ministry of prayer for us while we wait. While Christ is interceding for us in heaven, the Holy Spirit is interceding within us.

Our situation – weakness – we don’t know our needs and we don’t know the answer for our needs.

God’s answer – His Holy Spirit makes the requests for us with a depth far beyond us.

vs. 27 And He (God the Son - Rev. 2:23; God the Father - Ps. 139) who searches the heart of a man knows the mind of the Spirit behind the prayers because the mind of the Spirit and the mind of the Father and Son are one and the Spirit always makes His requests according to the will of God. (3 in 1)

vs. 28 And, as true as vs. 27 is, so is vs. 28.

We know – not hope, not would like to think – we know and we know we know!

That, God (all 3 persons) causes all things (good and bad) to work together for good (vs. 27 according to the will of God) to those who:

1. subjectively – who love God 1 John 4:7-10
2. objectively – who are called Rom 9:23-24; 11:29
John 6:37, 44, 65

His purpose (plan) preceded our call.

NOTE: It does not say that all things that happen to us are good. It does say that God causes all that happens to us to ultimately work together with everything else to our good.

vs.29 Why is verse 28 true? Because verse 29 is true.

For whom – persons, and not things about persons.

He foreknew – because of His pre-determined plan. He knew in advance because He chose in advance. Eph 1:4

He also predestined (plan for the one chosen) them to be conformed to the image of His Son.

There was no one he foreknew that is not conformed to Christ's image.

NOTE: If the word "foreknew" meant to know in advance, God knowing everyone and everything about everyone in advance, then the verse would be saying that everyone will be conformed to the image of His Son, which the Bible clearly teaches is not the case.

God's will or purpose can be summed up in the idea that He desires Christ to be the first-born of a second race of men.
Rom 5:12-19

vs. 30 Every person who has been predestined by God experiences three events in their lives:

1. calling 2 Thes 2:13-14
2. justification Rom 3:26
3. glorification 1 Cor 15:39-44, 51-54

NOTE: All humans do not end up glorified!
The unsaved will not be glorified, but the wrath of God will abide on them. John 3:36; Rev 14:9-10
It, therefore, must be concluded that the last are not predestined. (The Bible does not teach double predestination.)

vs. 31 What shall we say to these things? Vs. 28-30 (immediate context)
Rom 3:21-8:30 (larger context)

Consider the answers to the following question.

If God is for us, who is against us?

Plenty – Satan, his workers, other people, sometimes even my friends and family.

Their opposition to me isn't worth noting when compared to God being there for my completion.

vs. 32 Put the answer in perspective.

The God who is for us is the God who gave his Son to die for my sins.
How will He not, with Him, freely give us all things?

God did not spare His Son for us. What else do you think He would withhold from us because it would be more precious to Him than His Son?

“All things” - what do you think this includes?

- vs. 33 Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? (described in verses 29-30) God is the judge and He has declared His elect justified (righteous).
- vs. 34 Who is the one who condemns? How can they? Rom 8:1
1. Jesus Christ died for Rom 5:6-8
 2. Jesus Christ was raised for Rom 5:9-10; Rom 4:25
 3. Jesus Christ intercedes for 1 John 2:1-2
- vs. 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
“Who” turns into “things”, because “who” (Satan) is behind the “things” that try and separate us.
1. tribulation – John 16:33; 2 Cor 4:7-10
 2. distress – anguish 1 Cor 7:26; 1 Thes 3:7 “in straits”
 3. persecution – John 15:20
 4. famine – 2 Cor. 11:27
 5. nakedness – 1 Cor 4:11
 6. peril – 1 Cor. 15:30
 7. sword – Even at the hour of death we are not separated from the love of Christ!
- vs. 36 The persecuted church knows the reality of this verse.
- vs. 37 Sheep to be slaughtered are conquerors.
Loved us (past tense) when He sent His Son to die for us.
- vs. 38-39 Be convinced.
Nothing in God’s Creation can separate us from the love of God because we are in Christ Jesus our Lord.