

Glen Park Gospel Church  
**Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes**

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 15

## The Spirit of Holiness

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-13

Key Verse: . . . that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:4 NASB.

Verse four, our key verse, is the answer to the question which Paul and every Christian since has struggled to answer. 'How can the power of sin be broken in my life? Or, How can I live a life pleasing to God?' The short answer is. 'I can't. Jesus Christ can.' And it is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of holiness in me Who does that work. That is what this passage teaches.

### First, Remember, Jesus Himself Has Taken the Penalty of Our Sin. v1.

All the later versions give the same wording:

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:1&2 NASB

The word 'condemnation' signifies a sentence of punishment following judgment, as Vine<sup>1</sup> points out. Look up the only other use of this word form (Romans 5:16&18) and you will see that the condemnation is upon us as a result of Adam's sin.

The annulment of condemnation has come wholly and only in the sphere of Jesus Christ, and only for those who are **in** Him. The annulment is due, not to our actions but to our position whereby when God as judge sees us, he sees us as righteous **in Christ**, Jesus Himself having borne our guilt and punishment in His death upon the cross.

Notice the word 'for' beginning verses two and three. It is a word that assigns a reason. There are two reasons that those in Christ are not condemned.

**Reason 1: A new law** v2. This is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. This Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit. He is the One who makes

the cross-work of Jesus effective in the experience of the believer. But note: He only works **in** Christ Jesus with those who are in Him. The word in here is the Greek *en*. It is a spatial preposition mostly indicating within or inside. This law annuls the law of sin and death. Here is the answer to Paul's desperate cry in 7:24. The Holy Spirit works in the sphere of Christ and in all those who are in Him.

**Reason 2: Jesus Christ Came to Deal With Sin** v3. Sin came to mankind through Adam's transgression.

(Romans 5:19) and passed on to us all through our birth. Here is the basis for Paul's use of the term 'the flesh' when talking of our sinful nature<sup>2</sup>. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit, so that Jesus was not sinful, but in the likeness of sinful flesh v3 and so was able to deal with sin. The word 'for' in the phrase 'and for sin', means 'about, concerning or in regard to' sin. The purpose: Jesus came to judge or condemn sin.

The main thrust of these three verses is to focus upon the work of Jesus upon the cross which we receive by God's grace through our faith. It is not in any way due to our action, our trying to be good or overcome or atone for our sin. (Oh! says Paul, as if to the Jews, the Law couldn't do that either.)

### Next, Paul Tells Us Why God Did This For Us v4:

So that the requirement of the law (living to please God) might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:4 NASB.

Paul begins this verse with a different word to 'for'. It shows a purpose or result. It has the meaning, 'In order that', or, 'in order to', 'so that' and the like. Here is God's purpose. It is to make you like Jesus in your life-style. The word 'walk' in v4 is one of Paul's terms meaning life-style.

The Law as given to Moses demands a life which meets God's own nature and character. Only God can actually live like that. The Spirit of life v2 is also the Spirit of God and Spirit of Christ v9. When we live according to the law of the Spirit of life we are simply letting the Spirit of Christ be Himself in us. He does the work. What He did in Jesus 2,000 years ago He does in us today. How does it work? There are two more 'for's which give us a reason:

### Reason 1 A Heavenly Mind Set v5.

We came across Paul's law of the mind in our last study (Romans 7:23) which desired better things, things that concur with the tone and intent of the Law (7:25). The word for mind in chapter seven is that generally used, *nous*; conscious, thinking, understanding, feeling, the software in the brain box; i.e. one's mental ability.

Not everyone is like minded. Some mind the things of the flesh, but the Lord's people the things of the Spirit. Romans

8:5. The mind of the flesh (8:7) is hostile toward God. In chapter 8 Paul is explaining how things work. The word he used here means the ideas, the data of the thought process producing the output, or what we do with what we have up top.

In Romans 12:2 he calls upon those who are the Lords to work on the renewing of their minds (*nous*) whereby their lives may be transformed, changed in character and career to the likeness of Christ.

Where then is your mind?

### Reason 2 A Spirit Controlled Life v6.

The worldling, those not 'in Christ' have a bias toward their birthright, the humanness received from Adam. Those 'in Christ' move toward the things of the Spirit because they have a new centre of affection.

One life style delivers death because it is centred in the sinful nature and sin is condemned by the cross of Christ (v3), the other issuing from the Spirit of life leads to life. This is why Paul urges us to:

Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth Colossians 3:2 See also Romans 12:2 and Ephesians 4:23.

This theme will be continued and expanded in our next study.

1 W E Vine. Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. p222.

2 For a better understanding of Paul's use of the word 'flesh' look up his use of the word in the book of Romans: See 1:3; 2:28; 4:1; 6:19; 7:5,18,25; 8:1,3,4,5,8,9,12,13; 9:3,5,8; 11:14; 13:14; 14:21. The flesh is our birthright by virtue of our sin-ridden humanness as received from Adam .

# Welcome

## Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

These notes may be reproduced in part or in full when distributed without cost, if the words 'Used by Permission, Glen Park Gospel Church.' is included