

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 4

No 16

The Spirit of Holiness: Part 2

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-17

This study summarises much of what we have learned over the past year. It also looks at some of the issues of living in the Spirit. We want to enjoy some of the insights that Paul shares with us in this passage and look in anticipation to what God has in store for us.

God's Purpose For Us

Let us isolate the words that show us this:

... we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ ... Romans 8:16&17NIV.

All Scripture points to this great fact, that God is redeeming from among all nations, the fallen sons of Adam, those who trust Him; bringing many sons into glory Hebrews 2:10. Into glory: Paul explains that if we are God's children, then we are also His heirs, conjointly with Christ. The glory that is His, we will share. AMAZING!

How can we describe it? Eye has not seen, not ear heard, not has the mind even begun to imagine what God has in store for those who love and trust Him! (1 Corinthians 2:9).

God's Provision For Us

God's provision for the redemption of mankind is Jesus Christ; our justification as we are 'in Christ' Romans 8:1; and our sanctification as Jesus, in the person of His Spirit takes up His abode in us Romans 8:9&10. (See John 15:4)

Jesus, the Christ, who was crucified and raised again is God's only provision. He claimed to be the only way to God John 14:6, and no other way is known in all God's word, the Bible.

When we are 'in Christ' we are seen

through His righteousness and therefore as being just. He is in us as our life and He pleases a Holy God.

God's Plan For Us

God's plan is that we live in the Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, the Spirit who was in Jesus v9&11.

God has a plan for our mortal body v11. We know Paul's term 'the flesh' as used here means that human nature which we all received from Adam by our natural birth into the human race. This term can be difficult for the casual Bible reader.

The word 'flesh' is from the Greek word *sarx*. It can mean the body tissue as in 1 Corinthians 15:39, the human body as in Galatians 2:20, base sinful acts as in 2 Peter 2:18 or the inherited human nature as in our text. There is another word for flesh as meat, *kreas* as in Romans 14:21.

There is a word for 'body' *soma* as in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. Paul uses both 'flesh' *sarx* and body *soma* in verse 13. The body is amoral, that is neither sinful nor holy. We cannot punish it to make us holy or godly. It is just the case in which we live. It is our means of expression and communication in this world. But it can be ravaged by hard living. One day it will die and our place in this world will be gone. Mortal

means 'liable to death'.

The body can be an instrument of evil, if our thoughts are evil, or it can be an instrument of good when our thoughts are set on the Spirit v5&6.

Even though our bodies are mortal, Jesus Christ is in us as we trust Him. v10, and our spirit is alive. The word spirit in verse 10 is the same word as used elsewhere in this chapter when speaking of the Holy Spirit. The context points out the difference. The verse tells us that it is the work of the Holy Spirit within our spirit that expresses the holiness of character that God desires, thereby exhibiting life.

God has a plan for the redemption of our body from mortality to immortality; from corruption to incorruption. The Bible teaches elsewhere that this will happen at the coming again of Jesus. See 1 Corinthians 15:51-57.

Meanwhile we suffer in the body like everyone else. However remember that God can, and often does, heal his children in answer to believing prayer.

God has a plan for our living v13&14. God's plan for our living is for us to live in the Spirit. If we couldn't get it right the first time; if our every effort to please God is doomed to failure v7, what hope is there for us? God's answer is, 'be led by the Spirit of Christ in all the issues of life'.

Jesus Christ is joined in spirit to all those who are 'in Christ', Spirit to spirit. When we are 'in Christ' He is also in us and we are 'in the Spirit' when the Spirit is in us. v1&9. These

states occur simultaneously.

How do we know that this is what is happening?

Paul answers the question as we read chapter eight. The following list may not be complete.

First, there is a change in our lives v5.

Have you identified the difference in your attitude toward God and others. Have your speech and thoughts and interests and desires changed since you trusted in Christ? That is the action of the Spirit of God.

Second, there is Peace with God v6&15. The word peace v6 means to join together again. The hostility of the flesh we used to experience is gone and we are basically at one with God. This is the meaning of 'peace on earth, goodwill toward men', a mean-ing the world does not understand.

Third, our spirit is alive to God v10. In essence life is awareness of our environment, and spiritually prayer is communing with God, not a ritual. We are aware of God and interact with Him throughout the day. Our sensitivity to the presence of God is an indication of a living spirit within.

Fourth there is the witness of the Spirit that we are the children of God v16.

We are conscious that somehow we are now important to God.

Fifth there is the leading of the Spirit v14. Is this not what we would expect of the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent God. Finite man was created to be dependent on God and his redemption in Christ is restoration also to this status.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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