

## HANDOUT ROMANS CHAPTER 8

The main theme of Romans chapter 8 is that the Christian has been set free from the condemnation of sin and death by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Paul will present this theme in five parts:

- Romans 8:1-13: Christ has made it possible for us to live according to the Spirit
- Romans 8:14-17: The Christian as a child of God
- Romans 8:18-27: The glory of our destiny in Christ in 3 phases:
  1. verses 18-23: Creation anticipating Christ
  2. verses 24-25: The hope of faithful Christians
  3. verses 26-27: The coming of the Spirit
- Romans 8: 28-30: God's call to share His glory
- Romans 8:31-39: A hymn to God's love manifested in Jesus Christ

After the Fall two directions or two choices were set before mankind:

1. Either we continue to seek the will of God in our lives and fight against the inclination to enter into sin, or
2. We allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by the selfish desires of the flesh and seek our own life apart from God.

In essence this is the choice between supernatural life through the Holy Spirit, or the animal life of the flesh.

The **New Law** of the Gospel that we receive through Jesus Christ is a law of love, grace, and freedom—3 aspects that are present in the New Law but absent in the Old Law:

- It is called the “law of love” because it makes us act out of the love which has been infused into our souls by the Holy Spirit.
  - It is a “law of grace” because through it we receive God's grace which gives us the strength to resist sin and to continue to grow in grace through the Sacraments.
  - It is also called the “law of freedom” because it sets us free from the condemnation of the old law and from the position of a servant and raises us to the position of son-ship as a co-heir with Christ.
1. Death: sin is the author of death but Christ has conquered both sin and death which no longer have power over justified believers;
  2. Life: God is the author of life and it is through the saving work of Christ that the Christian has received the gift of eternal life;
  3. Angels and principalities and *nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power*: “Angels” may refer to fallen angels. Powers and principalities are powers that are hostile to humanity; these demon powers, like fallen angels and earthly princes, are still subject to the power of God [see Ephesians 1:21; 3:18].
  4. Nor the heights nor the depths: Represent the opposite extremes of Heaven and the grave.

*...nor any created thing whatever, will be able to come between us and the love of God, known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Paul assures us that neither power from the natural world, nor any power from the supernatural realm can rupture the union of love between Christ and the Christian.