

Dead & Alive – Romans, Part 6

In writing to the Romans Paul states, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ” (Romans 1:16). Literally, “I am not offended by the gospel of Christ.” Why does he say that? **Because the Gospel has to be “bad news” (i.e. you are a sinner) before it can become GOOD NEWS.**

First 3 chapters: The **bad** news is we are **SPIRITUALLY DEAD** ...

CHAPTER ONE: WE ARE “DEAD IN CARNALITY.”

“the wrath of God is revealed” (Romans 1:18)

CHAPTER TWO: WE ARE “DEAD IN HYPOCRISY.”

“therefore thou art inexcusable” (Romans 2:1)

CHAPTER THREE: WE ARE “DEAD UNDER THE LAW.”

“by the law is the knowledge of sin” (Romans 3:20)

Next 2 chapters: The **good** news is we can be **SPIRITUALLY ALIVE** ...

CHAPTER FOUR: WE ARE “ALIVE THROUGH FAITH.”

“Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness” (Romans 4:3)

CHAPTER FIVE: WE ARE “ALIVE THROUGH GRACE.”

“by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand” (Romans 5:2)

FAITH (“pistis”) = “absolute TRUST” – OUR action toward God

GRACE (“charis”) = “undeserved FAVOR” – GOD’S action toward us

THE BOTTOM LINE: ALIVE PEOPLE MUST BE DEAD! ...

CHAPTER SIX: WE ARE “DEAD TO SIN.”

“God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” (Romans 6:2)

CHAPTER SEVEN: WE ARE “DEAD TO THE LAW.”

“ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ” (Romans 7:4)

This **TENSION** sets the Christian up for a **BATTLE** between the **FLESH** and the **SPIRIT** (which the **unrighteous** or **self-righteous** person doesn’t have because they’re only living for their **FLESH**).

Romans 7:22-23 For I delight in **the law of God** after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against **the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin** which is in my members.

LAW OF GOD – salvation in my spirit

LAW OF MY MIND – sinful temptations in my mind (the battleground)

LAW OF SIN – sinful tendencies in my body

Romans 7:24-25 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve **the law of God [my MIND is WANTING to follow my SPIRIT]**; but with the flesh **the law of sin [my MIND is TEMPTED to follow my FLESH]**.

THE ONLY HOPE: DEAD PEOPLE CAN BE ALIVE! ...

CHAPTER EIGHT: WE ARE “ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT.”

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The law of sin (“sin separates”) and death (“death separates eternally”) brings CONDEMNATION, because we can never be good enough to merit salvation. But thank God that we are now under a NEW law – the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus! Those under this new law choose to walk not after the FLESH, but after the SPIRIT. SPIRIT is mentioned nearly 20 times in chapter 8, because it is the HOLY GHOST – not our own efforts – that enables us to live a victorious Christian life.

Because I’m Alive in the Spirit, there is **NO CONDEMNATION**

The Holy Ghost operates through **CONVICTION**, not **CONDEMNATION**. They “feel” the same, but come from different sources and have totally different results in our lives – so we should react to them differently.

CONDEMNATION	CONVICTION
Tangible sense of guilt	Tangible sense of guilt
Because of our sin and failures	Because of our sin and failures
Con – “damned”	Con – “vinced”
Comes from the devil	Comes from God
Pushes us from repentance	Pulls us to repentance
We should resist condemnation	We should embrace conviction

TWO LAWS operate at the same time in my life, but one of those laws is a HIGHER law! The law of the Spirit doesn't DESTROY the law of sin, but OVERCOMES it. As long as a bird flaps its wings or a plane runs its engines, the law of aerodynamics enables them to overcome the law of gravity. However, gravity has not been destroyed, just overcome. If the bird folds its wings or the plane shuts off its engines, gravity reasserts itself and they plunge to the ground. Spirit-filled Christians CAN live above sin - if they keep "flapping their wings!"

- **Sometimes I make mistakes and fail – NOT I, BUT SIN IN ME.**
"it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me" (7:17, 7:20)
- **But I have a new nature within me – NOT I, BUT CHRIST IN ME.**
"yet not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Galatians 2:20)

Romans 8:3-4 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Law of Moses couldn't help us, because it depended on OUR WEAK FLESH to obey it. But Jesus destroyed the power of sin over us by his death, burial and resurrection – so now we can obey His commandments by GOD'S STRONG SPIRIT that lives within us, not our own efforts.

Martin Luther: Some young followers wrote to him: 'We are harassed by many temptations which appeal to us so often and so strongly that they give us no rest. You don't seem to be troubled in this way, and we should like to know your secret. Don't temptations bother you? Are you somehow immune to sin?' Luther wrote back to them: 'I, too, know something of temptation. But the difference is that when temptation comes knocking at the door of my heart, I always answer, Go away! This place is occupied. Go back where you came from, for Christ is here.'

Indian Pastor: "There is a white dog and a black dog inside me, fighting to the death. Which dog wins the fight? The dog that I feed the most!"

I am winning my personal war on sin ONE BATTLE AT A TIME.

Romans 8:5-9 For they that are after the flesh do **mind** the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be **carnally** minded is death; but to be **spiritually** minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is **enmity** against God: for it is not **subject** to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

MIND ("phroneo") = "set the affection on"

CARNALLY ("sarx") = "the fleshly nature, with its frailties and passions"

SPIRITUALLY ("pneuma") = "God's Spirit, with its life and power"

ENMITY ("echthra") = "hostility, hatred, opposition"

SUBJECT ("hypotasso") = "subdued, submitted, under, obedient"

Romans 8:10-11 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also **quicken** your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

QUICKEN ("zoopoieo") = "energize, vitalize, give life, make alive"

THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST!

Because I'm Alive in the Spirit, there is NO OBLIGATION

Romans 8:12-14 Therefore, brethren, we are **debtors**, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do **mortify** the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 1:14 – "I am a debtor" to those who don't know the Gospel

Romans 8:12 – "I am NOT a debtor" to my FLESH!

MORTIFY ("thanatoo") = "kill, put to death" (present tense – continually!)

You don't owe your flesh anything – KILL ITS SINFUL DEEDS!
THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST!

Romans 8:15-17 For ye have not received the **spirit of bondage** again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, **Abba**, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ**; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Spirit of adoption gives us a "Joint Checking Account" with Jesus!

Romans 8:18-21 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest **expectation** of the creature waiteth for the **manifestation** of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the **bondage of corruption** into the **glorious liberty** of the children of God.

The future glory of the children of God is so great that the whole creation eagerly awaits the revelation of our status as the sons of God! We are already God's children, but this has not yet been revealed to the world. In the Garden of Eden, God placed all of creation under a curse because of the sin of MAN, His highest creation – but He did so in HOPE of our future deliverance. So all of creation is in LABOR PAINS until this hope is fulfilled – and so are WE, as we struggle against our sinful nature.

Romans 8:22-25 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the **adoption**, to wit, the **redemption** of our body. For we are **saved by hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is just the “firstfruits” – the downpayment – of the full inheritance we will receive in Heaven! We're still waiting for our FULL adoption – our spirit is redeemed now, but someday our BODY will also be redeemed. No more sickness, sorrow, pain or death! We don't see that yet, but we HOPE for it – we are SAVED BY HOPE! We can endure sufferings now because of the HOPE that is set before us!

Because I'm Alive in the Spirit, there is NO DESPERATION

God doesn't just promise future deliverance; He promises present help!

Romans 8:26-28 Likewise the Spirit also **helpeth our infirmities**: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **groanings which cannot be uttered**. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints **according to the will of God**. And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The Holy Spirit prays through us when we don't know how to pray. THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST!

Romans 8:29-31 For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be **conformed** to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did **predestinate**, them he also **called**: and whom he **called**, them he also **justified**: and whom he **justified**, them he also **glorified**. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Called, Justified, Glorified – PAST TENSE – God sees them as DONE!

God doesn't predestinate **INDIVIDUALS**, but He does predestinate **GROUPS** of individuals. You just have to choose to join the right group!

Romans 8:32-34 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

GOD is on my side, fighting for me in my battle against SIN! I am not on my own! Paul says in verse 1 that there is “NO CONDEMNATION” and challenges the devil in verse 34: “Who is he that condemneth?”

Because I'm Alive in the Spirit, there is NO SEPARATION

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall **separate** us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him that loved us. For I am **persuaded**, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to **separate** us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The only power that can put **DISTANCE** (“separate”) between you and God is not the devil, not the world, not circumstances – only **YOU**.

CONQUERORS (“nikao”) = “overcome, prevail, gain victory”
MORE THAN CONQUERORS (“hypernikao”) = [lit.] “hyper-conquerors”

Anthony Mangun: “It is not the will of God that the church goes to Heaven in a wheelchair! The greatest days of the church are ahead!”

NO CONDEMNATION!
NO OBLIGATION!
NO DESPERATION!
NO SEPARATION!

THIS IS WHY WE MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST!

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.