



## BRENTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH

ROMANS

EMPOWERING THE POWERLESS (ROMANS 8:1-17)

SEPTEMBER 29, 2013

### ROMANS 8:1-11 (HCSB)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, no condemnation now exists for those in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin's domain, and as a sin offering, <sup>4</sup> in order that the law's requirement would be accomplished in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God's law, for it is unable to do so. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. <sup>10</sup> Now if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > **BIBLICAL EMPHASIS:** God's Law is holy and righteous and good, yet it does not have the power to make sinners holy, righteous, and good, because of the evil nature that dwells within sinners. However, when the Holy Spirit dwells within Christians, they are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live triumphantly as God's holy, righteous, and good people, indeed, as God's children who cry affectionately in prayers to God, calling God "Abba, Dear Father."
- > **TEACHING AIM:** As a result of today's study, you will learn to:
  1. Adopt the Spirit's mind-set (Rom. 8:1-8)
  2. Go in the Spirit's direction (Rom. 8:9-14)
  3. Live in the Spirit's Certainty (Rom. 8:15-17)

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Paul began chapter 8 by talking about Jesus Christ, God the Son. He focused on the work of Christ, because of whom there is no more condemnation. Then in verse 3, Paul expanded to talk about God the Father as well. He spoke about how the Father had set up the law but it could not do what was needed, so the Father sent the Son as a human to fulfill the righteous requirement of the law.

> READ ROMANS 8:1-8.

How would you define "condemnation"? Why is there no condemnation for people in Christ Jesus?

What characterizes a person who lives according to the Spirit?

What characterizes people who live according to the flesh?

What are we taught about the unbeliever's mind in verses 6-8? Why is it impossible for them to please God?

How would you describe the role of the Holy Spirit? How did Paul see the Spirit impacting our position as "sons"?

> READ ROMANS 8:9-14.

What are the benefits of life in the Spirit discussed in these verses?

Why is knowing the constant presence of God's Spirit a powerful deterrent to giving in to the temptations that come with our struggle with sin?

Why does having the Spirit guarantee our future bodily resurrection?

What is our obligation as Christians, according to verses 12-13?

How does the Spirit help us fight our battles? Give an example.

> READ ROMANS 8:15-17.

According to these verses, who were we before salvation? How does Paul describe our relationship with God after salvation?

In verses 15-17, what additional insight does Paul give us into the Spirit's work in our lives?

Read verse 17 again. What does it mean to be an heir of something? If we're coheirs with Christ, what do we inherit?

How do you feel knowing that being in God's family means experiencing suffering because of that relationship? How have you experienced this truth?

Can the Spirit guide us if we're trying to control the situation? Why? What will the Spirit guide us into if we give the controls over to Him?

What kinds of fears do adults often fall back into? Why don't we have to fear those things?

### APPLICATION

We know we have a relationship with God—we are His children—because His Spirit lives in us assuring us of our redemption. Thanks to the Spirit, we have the confidence to live for Him every day as we anxiously await our futures in His heavenly kingdom.

Which of the truths from this passage did you most need to hear today? Why?

Which do you have the most trouble believing is true for you? Why?

In what ways have you recently been reminded of the Spirit's presence and power in your life? How can you be more aware of and sensitive to the Spirit's presence and power?

Think of a challenging circumstance you'll be facing soon. How will you handle the situation if you are fully aware of the Spirit's guidance?