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| 1  Romans 8:1-13 Sermon Outline  01/12/25  “Are You Assured of Your Salvation?”  **INTRO:**  If were to ask rep. major religions of world  “If you were to die tonight, will you be absolutely certain without a shadow of a doubt, that you will go to heaven?”  10/10 will admit = not sure  Possibly good feeling that they will make it… = good works, etc. but no one look dead in the eye and say they are confident they will be in heaven  Even as a believer if you were to ask them that question…= struggle to answer because they know they struggle with sin… = doubt their salvation  Well Romans 8 = there to give the doubting, the struggling Christian assurance of their salvation | 2  Not just there for the Christian who wavers and has more anxiety than the usual Christian, but for all of us!  All of us struggle with assurance at times because of our indwelling sin that we still battle…we need Romans 8  Honest thought: Me trying to explain Rom. 8 = ant climbing Mt. Everest  Yet, not meant to be intimidating = comforting  My hope and prayer is for all of us by the end of chapter 8 to be able to say to someone if we were asked the question about heaven = “yes I know will be with Jesus when I die” “I know I am of His, and He is mine”  Rom. 8 is a chapter on the assurance of the believer’s salvation  today’s portion focuses on assurance from two realities |
| 3  **MAIN POINT:**  Paul is going to give you two realities of the Christian life that will help assure you that you are indeed a follower of Christ, and that you will be with Him when you die  1) Reality of justification in Christ VV. 1-4  2) Sanctified Living in Christ VV. 5-13  **BODY:**  1) Reality of justification VV. 1-4  Rom. 8:1 “*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*…”  Stop right there…  Paul just talked about believer’s struggle with sin = Rom. 7:14-25  Just said V. 14 “*he is fleshly, having been sold under bondage to sin*.” | 4  How can Paul say that?!  In fact if you have KJV = different translation  “*there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus,* ***who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit***.” = not found in earliest manuscripts  While I can’t be sure of motive = scribe = tired = combining accidentally 8:4 into 8:1 when he started again  But perhaps scribe thought that it only made sense for those “*who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit*.”  But that’s not right = gives impression that you can fall back into condemnation if you were according to the flesh…  At the least = confusing, at worst = can contradicting the whole point of what Paul is arguing |
| 5  Grab a sharpie and blot it out!  But did Paul really mean there is no condemnation…it’s final, zip, zata…it’s finished!?  Seems too simple!  Yes! If you are in Christ, there is no possibly or potentially for you to be condemned because Christ took your condemnation!  John 3:17-18 Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save it  “*He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God*.”  In Adam = all of us condemned to die  In Christ = all united to Him live = all of this union is possible because the Holy Spirit was the one who united us to Christ! | 6  V. 2  “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death*.”  “law” = not Law of Moses = rule/principle = better yet = “power”  For the “power” of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the “power” of sin and of death  Before you were in Christ you were under the power of sin and of death  The wages of sin is death and the power of sin is in the Law  So, Sin, Death, and the Law were like the unholy tyrants that ruled your life  And because we were still in Adam, not in Christ = the Law that is holy, righteous and good only served to stimulate us more to sin and to reveal the utter sinfulness of our sin |
| 7  The external law of God written on stone could not save or sanctify us  We need the Law of God written internally in our hearts = only done through the power of the Holy Spirit  V. 3 “*For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh*.”  In fact, God specifically designed the Law to condemn us and point us to the One who can fulfill the Law; the man Jesus Christ  The Law is powerless; Paul calls it “weak as it was through the flesh”  No normal flesh can fulfill the Law, unless it was empowered by God Himself  And that’s exactly what God did…by sending His Son to take on the likeness of sinful flesh | 8  Amazing = precision of choice of words = Paul  “Likeness”  Without it: = Christ would be a sinner  But with it = showing that He took on human flesh, yet as Hebrews puts it = without sin  The human nature and body Christ had subject to this fallen world (didn’t have original sin of Adam like we do) = grew tired, thirsty, felt all range of human emotion = body was subject to death  Times he got sick/flu = purposefully didn’t heal himself at times = so that He would be a great priest who is able to sympathize with our humanness  But Paul can say “no condemnation” because Christ took our condemnation by condemning sin in the flesh = meaning, he paid the penalty of sin and the Law by dying as a man, but not as an ordinary man, but as the God-man |
| 9  Christ tasted our death and condemnation so that we wouldn’t have to taste death and condemnation  He freed us…but freed us to do what? To live however way we want? No…to live like He lived  V. 4 “*so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*.”  Christ said in Matthew “Come, let us fulfill all righteousness”  And He also said in Matthew “I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it”  And He did exactly that, by His obedience to the Father, He satisfied the righteous requirement of the Law so that He can take our sin and pay for it, and grant us His righteousness so that when the Father looks at you, all He sees is not your sin but His Son’s perfect righteousness  As if you fulfilled it perfectly | 10  But He freed us from the Law’s demands by fulfilling it, but not so that we would have nothing to do with the Law anymore… but that we in the way we live would live out the heart of the Law, what the Law always intended…to reflect who God is and His righteousness  We can truly live out the freedom of the Law through the Spirit who has written the Law on our hearts to do them  This is where later half of V. 4 comes in  “*who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit*.”  Walking = euphemism for entire life  “Flesh” = unredeemed life  Sometimes Paul uses flesh = body without sinful connotations, sometimes he refers to flesh = unredeemed part of life particularly expressed through mortal, sinful bodies |
| 11  And other times (in this case) he uses “flesh” = totality of an unbeliever’s life = characterizes unbeliever  Life that is lived independent of God’s Holy Spirit  Life lived that is dependent on God’s Holy Spirit = walking according to the Spirit  2) Second reality that will assure you of your salvation is your sanctified living in Christ VV. 5-13  “*For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is at enmity toward God, for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so*, and those *who are in the flesh are not able to please God*.”  The only way you can begin to live a set apart life for Christ is if you have been declared righteous in God’s sight by His Holy Spirit | 12  The first way you can tell whether you are walking in the flesh or in the spirit is what characterizes your thinking throughout the day?  Is it things that characterize the flesh or of the Spirit?  What are things that characterize the flesh?  Gal. 5:19-21  “*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,* *idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”*  Paul is smart = things like these to counter: “well I don’t see the sin I do listed in this, so I must be good!” |
| 13  No matter how good you might try to live for God, even trying to obey the Law like Paul did as a Pharisee before Christ…  If you are not in Christ, you have a mind that is set according to the flesh = living only to please yourself = living apart from the power of the Holy Spirit  Your life is characterized as rebellion, even if not outward rebellion in wickedness = inward rebellion = it’s impossible for you to please God (verse 8) because you are in a hostile to God (verse 7)  Nobody is “good with God”  Does that describe you in any way?  Do you live by the strength of your own flesh, your own mind, or do you live knowing that everything that you do, all your obedience is dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit?  If you do have what Paul calls in another epistle the “mind of Christ” then your life = “life and peace” | 14  True life = eternal life = John 17  Life that is produced when you as a branch abide in the tree Jesus Christ and bear much fruit  If you are abiding in Him = united to Him = you also have peace = peace in your sin but a peace from your sin  A mind set on the Spirit produces the fruit of righteousness  Gal. 5:22  “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*  *Against such things there is no law*.”  Why? Because love is the fulfillment of the Law  If you love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself, then your life will manifest these fruits = these qualities |
| 15  Rom 8:9  “*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him*.”  Simply = if you don’t have the Spirit of God/Christ = then that means Christ’s sacrifice has not been applied to your life = thus, you are still under the enslavement to sin and the Law = thus you are not a child of God but you are still a child of the devil  You have not been “born again” by the Spirit  You are still dead in your trespasses and sins as Ephesians says  V. 10 “*But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness*.”  To be in Christ means Christ is in you and you are in Christ | 16  And if you are united to Christ = then your life becomes His life  And Christ is Life itself…He literally upholds life by the word of His power, in the palm of His hands  He has breathed new life into your soul just as God breathed life into the dirt to make Adam  Yes, your body is dead because of sin, it is still unredeemed, but your spirit is alive because of His righteousness  But body won’t stay dead forever V. 11  “*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you*.”  One day this perishable will put on the imperishable and it too will be redeemed like your spirit has been redeemed |
| 17  Because you are in Christ…because there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus how should you live your life?  VV. 12-13  “*So then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the practices of the body, you will live*.”  You are not obligated to serve the flesh anymore. You can say no!  Because your old man has died  Titus 2:11-12  *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us that, denying ungodliness and worldly desires, we should live sensibly, righteously, and godly in the present age”* | 18  Some translations say “teaching us to say “no!” to ungodliness  You are free to say “no!”  Before you couldn’t say “no!” If sin commanded, you obeyed  But now Christ commands you, and you can obey  Paul is not saying if you slip up and start living according to your former way of life, the flesh, you will forfeit your salvation and bring back your condemnation  A Christian does not slip in and out of condemnation  That’s what all the rest of the world’s religions and faiths believe = depending on your performance, you will live or die eternally  But not so with God, if your whole is characterized by living according to the flesh = only proves that you are still living as a condemned man |
| 19  **ILLUST:**  Just like how in prison, a prisoner serving his sentence and having to do community service in the prison proves he is a condemned man, not a free man so if you live for yourself, you are proving that you are still condemned  But if you live according to the Spirit, and live by its sin killing power, you are showing that you are free from condemnation, = you are proving to yourself that you are indeed a true follower of Christ,  that you have been truly born again into God’s kingdom,  that you have been transformed by the Holy Spirit and have passed out of death into life  Now remember, you won’t be perfect, don’t expect all of your sin to magically disappear…just when you think you conquered a sin in your life…another one will pop up | 20  That’s why Paul wrote Romans 7:14-25 for us = also as an assurance that struggling with sin is normal part of the Christian life  Before being “IN” Christ, you didn’t struggle, why?  Because = you were dead  Dead people don’t struggle right?  If a mother is giving birth to a baby and that baby didn’t struggle its way through the birth canal working with its mother = that’s a sign of a dead baby  But now, being made alive to righteousness by His Spirit, you realize the mess of a sinner you are and you seek to be like Jesus, who is sinless  As Dave Paine put it, you are under new management  Christ has put His Holy Spirit inside of you, causing you to walk in His statutes |
| 21  Your life may be full of struggles with sin…but does you want to look more like Jesus?  Do you want to put to death the deeds of the body through His Spirit who lives inside of you?  If your answer is “yes” then rest assured Christian you are a child of God and you will be with Jesus forever when you die  Let me ask you a practical question:  Have you grown in your walk with the Lord today than you were a year ago?  However painful, slow, and small that progress towards Christlikeness have you grown at all in your desire to be like Christ, have you grown in your love for Christ? Do you desire to live for Christ or for yourself?  If you desire to live for Christ and to please Him, then rest assured dear friend the Spirit of Christ lives inside of you, because only He can give that desire | 22  Therefore, for those who have been set free by the Spirit of Life are now under no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  Let’s pray  **Benediction:**  1 Thessalonians 5:23  *“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* |