

The Footsteps of Faith Series

Lesson # 13 “Righteousness is found in Christ”

Romans 8:1-11

Scripture: Romans 1:16-17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.””

Introduction:

Cancer is a disease that has probably effected most of the people here today. Some people here today have cancer and know it and they are in treatment. Some might have it and not even know about it yet. I hope none of us have it.

One thing stands true...cancer is scary. I recently lost both my father and grandfather to cancer and boy it can be a nasty thing.

The truth is, we have very little knowledge about cancer. Doctors and research labs make great progress only run into more problems. They struggle greatly to simply understand the disease which is apparent by their every changing cures for it. Each year, they tell us to stop eating one thing and start eating another only to change it around again the next year.

Now some people, in an effort to maintain hope, don't want the doctor to tell them all the facts. My dad was not one of those people. I was there the day he asked Dr. Paniker to give it to him straight. The Dr. told him that he had a small cell, aggressive type of cancer which was most certainly a death sentence.

I watched my dad's face as all hope disappeared. He was stuck with all those years of smoking and there wasn't one thing he could do about it, except lay down and die.

Transitional Statement:

Under the Old Law sin ate away at people like a spiritual cancer and they found themselves hopeless without a cure. But, Church isn't it a great thing that we have hope in Christ? That in Christ, there is a cure for sin, a balm for the soul.

Lesson:

READ:

Romans 8:1-11

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 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, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 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. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

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. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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.

I. Now, you are in Christ

Romans 8:1-2

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

A. “Therefore there is now”

1. Paul moves from the past and focuses in on the present.
2. The “Now” in context, stands opposed to life under the Law of Moses
 - a. In which Paul had just described his “Wretched” struggle with sin under the Law (Romans 7:24)
 - b. It left him feeling hopeless under a Law that could not justify him.

B. But he says “Now!”

1. Now, there is no condemnation
 - a. That is, there is no judgment or verdict that can stand against us.
 - b. This is not because we are sinless, its not because we don’t deserve judgment.

- c. But something has changed.
2. Now, there is freedom from the Law of Moses
- a. Here referred to as the “*law of sin and death.*”
 - b. No wonder Paul felt “wretched” because living under the Law meant if you sinned, you died (Ezekiel 18:20)
 - c. But here Paul says you have been set free !
 - d. While on a young leaders conference to Washington DC when I was a teenager, we went to the Ford’s Theater where president Lincoln was shot and watched a musical of Uncle Tom’s Cabin. Have you ever wondered what it must have been like for slaves who were emancipated after the Civil War? Some of these slaves had never walked one day on this earth in freedom. I wonder how they felt as they walked off southern plantations for the first time. Maybe at first freedom felt weird maybe even wrong. Some of them even choose to stay at their plantation because freedom scared them, but I imagine for most slaves, any feelings of guilt faded away after crossing the first hill and feeling freedom beneath their feet.

-Here Paul reminds the Romans Christians that they have been freed.

3. So what has changed?
- a. The key factor for real estate is location, location, location and rightfully said a key factor for spirituality is also location

-“*in Christ*”

3. So lets talk about being “*in Christ*”
- a. Think of a picture of me standing beside my car, proud as I might be, does my closeness give me any benefits that the car has to offer?
 - b. Now think about me “in my car” driving down the highway, actually getting somewhere, with the wind blowing in my hair...don’t laugh. I feel restful in its soft seats and protected by its airbags and sheltered from the rain and cold. I have none of these things standing outside the car...although I can feel really good about them.
 - c. I think these first century Christians like many of us today want to be associated with Christ by merely standing by Him, as opposed to getting into Him.

- d. Paul told us in Chapter 6 how, initially, to get “into” Christ by being baptized, right?
- e. But, it wasn’t meant to be a test drive. Church we are suppose to get into Christ, and let Him transport us through this life. We are to live “in Him” and stay in Him!
- f. Being in Christ is like being in a city of refuge. Duet. 4:42
 - Free, and protected
 - Not able to be condemned.

C. You have heard the expression “there is a new sheriff in town”?

- 1. It usually means things have changed
- 2. Here change is expression by pointing to “*The law of the Spirit of life*” found in Christ.

-The New Covenant !

II. In Christ the requirements of the Law are fulfilled.

Romans 8:3-4a

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, 4 so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us,...”

A. What could the Law not do?

- 1. It couldn’t take away sins, it was a death sentence.
- 2. You see, it couldn’t help you to be justified or righteous before God.
- 3. Its weakness was simply mans inability or refusal to keep it.

B. But God took care of all that by sending His only begotten son to the earth in the flesh.

- 1. As a acceptable offering for sin, Jesus died on the cross for us.
- 2. And, while on earth, Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law and thus meet and fulfilled its requirements.

-Thus condemning sin in the flesh

- 3. So that since we live in Jesus the requirement of the law is fulfilled in us.

III. Therefore we are to walk according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:4b-8

who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 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. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

A. In Christ we walk according to the Spirit.

1. Letting Him lead and guide our steps
 - a. Through God's word
 - b. And the promptings of our hearts as related to God's word.
2. Keeping in step with Him Gal 5:25
 - a. Not quenching his efforts in our lives. 1 Thess. 5:19
3. Leading to life and peace

B. On the other hand life in the flesh is:

1. A Mind set on temporal things
 - a. Things that moth and rust destroy Matt 6:19
2. Being hostile toward God
3. Not in subjection to the Law of God
4. Cannot please God
5. Ultimately death

III. The Spirit dwells in us

Romans 8:9-11

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. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 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.

- A. Acts 2:38 says that at baptism we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...and here we understand that God actually takes up residence and dwells in us.

B. Under the Old Covenant the Holy Spirit dwelt in the Law.

1. But now "*In Christ*" our spiritual house has been cleaned and God moves in.
2. The over whelming plea here is to release the flesh or the temporal things and embrace righteousness through Christ.

Conclusion:

Are you outside of Christ today?

-Maybe you have never got into Christ

-Maybe you have stepped outside of Him.

There is balm in Jesus that waits eagerly to heal your soul.