

Sunday, Dec.6, 2009
Living Hope EFC
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Every Christian has the Holy Spirit, Giver of New Life: Rom.8:1-11

ILLUS: Abraham's Faithful Servant sent to get a bride for Isaac. **Gen24**

Abraham sent his faithful servant on a mission to find a bride for Isaac, *his son of "promise,"* born – miraculously to him & Sarah.

- The servant was to go to a particular people, not the Canaanites.
- He would seek the son's bride & **not return until** his mission finished
- When he reached the land of chosen people he found a willing bride.
- The servant told of great wealth of his master, and how **the son was heir to all the father had**. The bride would become **joint-heir** to the son's wealth and to God's promises that their descendants would one day possess the earth itself! **A Cov't God had made with Abraham**.
- When the bride agreed to marry the son, he gave her some of the family wealth immediately; a ring, bracelet, gold, silver & clothing -from the wealthy master. **A promise – of greater wealth to come**.
- The faithful servant then escorted the woman back to the son, who married her as his bride, and whom he loved greatly.

This faithful servant is a **divine picture of the Holy Spirit, God's faithful Servant and agent of salvation for acquiring Christ's bride!**

- When the Son returned to the Father's side, **the Spirit was sent** to earth to seek for a "Bride" for the Son.
- Since that day – he has been gathering those who are willing – to return with Him to the Son's House and be His bride.
- He tells of **the great wealth that awaits** all who will come, **that all that the Father has – He has given to His beloved Son**. And every believer becomes **joint-heir** in all the Son's wealth.
- And **he gives the first fruits of the Father's wealth immediately** upon the believer's conversion, before the journey to heaven!
- **Then, one day, He will escort each one safely to the Father's House** where the marriage supper of the Son & Bride takes place, and eternal glorious life begins in a new realm.

In Romans 8 – Paul describes the special ministry of the Holy Spirit, Who carries out the Father & Son's mission to gather a bride for the Son.

- Romans began with man's condemnation & ends with glorification!
- By the end of chapter eight Paul tells of our sure glory: 8:30.
- In the first part of the chapter, we learn of the 1st fruits of our wealth.
- **All that belongs to the Son, now is distributed by the Spirit!**

The Grand Pronouncement: <i>No Condemnation</i> for a Christian 8:1

Vs 1: "Therefore there is now No Condemnation!"_(ουδεν αρα νυν) Emphatic! "None at all!" Not one particle is found!

μεν: We would expect this statement at the end of chapter 3 or 5, confirming the **judicial nature** of our "justification." And it does apply!

- It is a monumental claim, considering man's original state: 3:9-10.
- Since Adam ALL are under condemnation: **1:18, 2:1; 3:20**-all.

δε: There is also very practical & ethical side to this pronouncement – extending from Paul's struggle with sin & personal failure in chap. seven.

- You remember his dilemma: **7:14, 18-19,24 "Oh, wretched man..."**

Q: **What happens to us when we fall to temptation**, succumb to sin?

- How do we feel? Under condemnation, guilt, doubt our acceptance.
- The fact is, since 3:21, 5:1 – there has been no legal condemnation. But in chapter 7 we are aware of moral & ethical condemnation.

THERE IS A GREAT DANGER TO AVOID:

(1) This self-pity is actually pride – in a reversed manner. Our eyes are on ourselves & what we expect from self (7:15-16, 24). (Self-r'ness.)

- Count the number of times "I" is used in chapter 7. No mention – HS
- Often our remorse is that we were caught! Not that we offended God.

(2) To accept "condemnation" (which is not God's reality- 8:1) is to fall prey to Satan's scheme to doubt Christ's full forgiveness & cleansing.

- **Satan is a liar, and he will take our failure and use it to "accuse us."**
- We think it is our conscience, but it is Satan – lying to us, so we focus on ourselves – and not on the finished work of Christ for us.

(3) **Cure for sin:** 1 John 1:9, 1:7; 8:1! > 6:11. Nothing has changed!

"For those who are in Jesus Christ."

- **"No Condemnation"** is associated with being **"In Christ Jesus."**

Q. What does it mean to be "in" J.C.?

ILLUS: "In the Army" = List characteristics of what this means.

1. A legal status (official, gov'tal privileges & authority).
2. Resources: not our own, but ours (tanks, clothing, food).
3. Relationship.

"In the White House"=power among dignitaries, authority, wealth, status

"In Christ" = To share in all He is & has accomplished: position, rela'p.

Rom.5:1,2,5,9,10; 6:5,6,14,23; 8:11,15-17,35 II **Cor.**5:17.

- "In Christ" – There are no degrees. We're "In" or "Out."
- **POINT: IN CHRIST – Condemnation is impossible! We share Him.**

The law of the Spirit of life has set us free from sin & death! 8:2

Vs.2: "Because" = "Why" we will never face condemnation.

"LAW?" = A given principle that acts uniformly with certainty.

- **ILLUS**- Gravity. Rom.7:21-23 - SIN.

"Law of sin & death"=Sin produces death! All sin, all die.=Unbreakable.

"Law of Spirit of Life" = By faith in Christ the H.S. gives eternal life.

- **POINT**: Life from the Spirit **freed us** from Death from Sin!

ILLUS: Don Trump paid mortgage. Law of wealth freed from debt.

What Law was unable to do for man, God did! 8:3-4

Q. What was the Law unable to do?

- (1) To stop us from sinning: Gal.2:21.
- (2) To make us righteous & give eternal life: **7:10,14**. Gal.3:21-22.

Q. WHY is it unable? > "It was weakened by the **sinful nature**."

- The material the Law had to work with was defective!
- Flesh could not comply with the Law's requirements.
- **FLESH**: The sum total of our inner soul – corrupted by the fall/ sin.

FLESH: Used 14 times in Rom.8, = "sinful nature." **7:18,25b; 8:6-8**.

- It is no wonder God had to give us a new source of life within.
- It would be impossible to serve God, bear fruit (7:4) by "flesh."

How did God answer this problem? **Rom.4:17**.

(1) By sending His Son as a sin offering. 3:25; I Pet.3:18,2:24.

- Sin once condemned us to death. Jesus condemned sin, by taking it upon Himself & fulfilling the Law's demands against it.

(2) By condemning sin in the flesh.

- 2nd: He condemned the very source of lawbreaking & enmity in us.

(3) Vs.4: "By meeting the righteous requirements of Law in us."

- Rom.7:13. The Law was/is good. **God's desire is that we live out His character, as His children; Great Commands**, Rom.12-15.
- The Spirit Himself dwells in us and gives us the Life of God that enlivens our souls, gives us a new mind, heart & will to love Him
- **Note**: The Law is fulfilled not "by" us, but "in" us (by another).
- **The Lawgiver becomes the Law keeper!** **Phil.2:12-13**.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Who Walk by Spirit: - Rom.8:9; Gal.3:2-5; **5:16**,24-25.

NOTE the Balance: "We walk, but the H.S. provides righteousness."

- **As we do our part, the Holy Spirit is the Father's faithful messenger to give the wealth of His Son – to the Bride.**
- **We must:** 1-Know our position (6:6). 2- We must walk by faith (6:11). 3- We must present ourselves (6:13). = Walk according to the Spirit.

- This is living in moment-by-moment dependence on the Spirit.
- We discover what God wants us to do, then by faith, depending on the Spirit's life in us, we step out and "do" what God's will is.

Flesh VS Spirit: Two contrary principles of living: 8:5-8

Vs.5: The flesh & Spirit have two different interests, concentrations, focuses, pursuits. At their core they are world's apart, the antithesis.

- Look at Col.3:1-17, or any of the Epistles for this contrast.

Vs.6: The flesh, sinful at its core, leads & involves one in wages of sin.

The Spirit – is interested in giving life, and God's peace. **1 Jn.3:3**

Vs.7-8: The flesh is totally incapable of obeying Law, or pleasing God.

- Survey the history of civilization since Adam. Unless God specifically intervenes it is a history of cruelty and death.
- This is what the Spirit of Life has set us free from.

The Spirit of God possesses every Christian & gives life: 8:9-11
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Vs.9: The Christian is NO LONGER under sin, or dominated by the flesh and its nature & disposition. **BUT he is now possessed by God's Spirit.**

- That which makes a Christian a Christian is possession of God's Spirit
- **No Spirit** = Not a Christian. A Christian = You have God's Spirit.
- **John 3:5-6; 7:38-39; 14:17-18**
- The Spirit regenerates us & indwells us the at conversion: Eph.1: 13
- His indwelling is permanent: Eph.4:30, 1 Cor.6:19; 2 Cor.1:21-22
- **He is a "gift, FIRSTFRUITS" of the wealth of the Father –Rom.8:23**
- The presence of the indwelling Spirit is presupposed everywhere in the NT, by the kind of life expected in the Christian!
- **God's expectations are a mockery & impossibility without the HS.**

Vs.10: Christ is in us! The result: a dying body, a living soul.

- 2 Cor.4:7, 16—5:1,5. We can serve God acceptably by the Spirit.

Vs.11: The Spirit of God, is the power of resurrection life IN US!

- In the future, we will know the same resurrection Jesus experienced.
- In the present, this same power of resurrection life is our ability for a present walk in newness of life: Phil.4:13,19; Col.1:29; 1 Cor.15:10

-I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

-And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

-To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

-But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

CONCLUSION

The Christian is literally world's apart from the non-Christian.

The Trinity houses within the spirit of each Christian!

God in us = is our righteousness, acceptance, eternal life, daily strength.

The H.S., the **faithful Messenger** of the Godhead, has come to find a bride for the Son of Promise.

- The Father loves the Son and has given him all his possessions.
- The Spirit invites all who will come...to come to the Son.
- And all who come...He gives the promise of **future infinite wealth** in the Father's House, and opens his divine saddle-bags and **dispenses the first fruits of the Son's wealth – right now, as we're on our journey home.**

-Our disabilities and handicaps need not limit our usefulness to God.

-No failure in our past need hold us to impotence in our future.

-God in you knows only the limitations of His sovereign purposes and our faith our unbelief. Rom.4:18!

APPLY

1. When did you receive the Holy Spirit? (Have you?)

..."I received the Holy Spirit (Date)_____.

2. How do you know if you are under the control of the flesh, or under the control of God's Spirit?

3. Is there a sin or problem troubling you – that Christ could not give you strength to address in a manner that is pleasing to God?