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Life, Liberty, and Confident Hope

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

*** 1st Tuesday of the month ***

TUESDAY, 1ST OF SEPTEMBER

12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of each month at 12 Noon, in accord with the Public Service Commission devotional at 9:55am. The *monthly* Bible study is nonpartisan and non-denominational. We are currently studying the book of Romans, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse.

I pray that this study will be edifying to you. I labor to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.

— Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission (interim) Bible Study

is
Tuesday, 1 September 2015

Romans 8 – “Life, Liberty, and Confident Hope”

Romans 8 is often regarded as one of the greatest chapters in the Bible for its revelation of the new manner of living “by the Spirit of God.” The new life depicted in the Bible is one of peace and security in God, and chapter 8 of Romans explains these glorious truths with tremendous clarity. Scripture illustrates two manners of living life in the world that God has created.

Romans 8 vividly contrasts the actions of mere human nature (“the flesh”) with “the mind set on the Spirit” (which is language similar to the disparity between “deeds of the flesh” and “the fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:19-23). Chapter 8 of Romans explains from whence these disparate lifestyles arise. The mind of a person can only be set upon one purpose: either the desires of the flesh or the Spirit. The new life “in the Spirit” makes it possible to focus the mind upon “the things of the Spirit” which is pleasing to God.

James Boice (1938-2000), who was an inner city pastor and articulate theologian, recounted an excellent illustration of the two manners of living life. His example was William Pitt the Younger, who “was one of the great prime ministers of England, a great intellect, and a friend of William Wilberforce, the man who devoted his life to the abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire.”

Wilberforce had experienced a genuine evangelical conversation, and this had made him the upright man he was. It was because of his Christian convictions that he labored so long and struggled so hard against slavery. Pitt was a nominal Christian, as most Englishmen of that day were, but Christianity did not mean anything to him.

In London in those days there was also a great evangelical clergyman and preacher by the name of Richard Cecil. Wilberforce attended Cecil’s preaching regularly and . . . wanted his friend, William Pitt . . . to go with him and hear Cecil. Wilberforce often invited Pitt to attend . . . with him, but Pitt made excuses. He was always too busy. However, a day came when Pitt told Wilberforce that he could accompany him.

That Sunday morning Cecil was at his best. Wilberforce was uplifted as he had scarcely ever been before; he was glorying in God and prayed for his friend. However, when the service ended and they were going out together, William Pitt turned to his friend Wilberforce, and said, “You know, Wilberforce, I have not the slightest idea what that man was talking about” [James Montgomery Boice, *Ephesians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1988) 157].

The example depicts the lack of spiritual understanding that is manifested by those devoid of the Spirit of God. Scripture reveals that a person whose mindset is upon “the things of the flesh” cannot “accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised” (1 Cor 2:14).

EXPERIENCING LIFE AND LIBERTY

(Rom 8:1-17) Verses 1-4 describe the freedom that has been accomplished by God’s work on behalf of those who believe (trust) in Him for salvation. As the Spirit leads believers, they have liberty from both the condemnation and the power of sin. The reason for being liberated is that God sent his Son and the Spirit of life.

Providing a declaration of the believer’s freedom (vv. 1-4), then leads to a description of human nature, particularly what it means to live according to the flesh and what it means to live by the Spirit of God. Those who live according to the flesh “set their minds on the things of the flesh.” Those who live according to the Spirit have a mindset upon “the things of the Spirit.”

Verses 7-11 explain the results of these two mindsets. Living according to the flesh (vv. 7-8) is to have a mindset “on the flesh” which is “death.” Such an individual is “hostile toward God,” not subject to the law of God, and thus is unable to please the Lord God.

Conversely, to live according to the Spirit is to have a mindset of life and peace (v. 6). Such a person is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, “alive because of righteousness,” and will receive life to their “mortal bodies through His Spirit” (vv. 9-11). The indwelling Holy



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1st Tuesdays (monthly) @ 12 Noon - 12:45 pm, 123 CAP
lunch provided from ministry partnership by Capitol Commission donors



Enhancing Trust

Spirit bears inner witness to the reality of one's salvation. He confirms adoption into the family of God (vv. 12-17), which entails obligations (vv. 12-13), has advantages (vv. 14-16), and a joyous outcome as a fellow heir with Christ Jesus (v. 17).

EXPERIENCING CONFIDENT HOPE

(Rom 8:18-39) Romans 8:17-18 are pivotal because they expound the remaining verses in the chapter. Verse 17 revealed how it is that believers are adopted into God's family, and are, therefore, fellow heirs with Christ Jesus. Consequently, all believers inherit both his suffering (vv. 18-28) and his glory (vv. 29-39).

Romans 8:18 – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Present sufferings (vv. 18-28) are merely a small aspect of what is occurring cosmically. The entrance of sin into God's originally perfect (good) world is affecting all creation (cf. Gen 3:14-19; Rom 5:12), which is depicted as suffering with the believer. Both the believer (Rom 8:23-28) and the creation (vv. 18-22) currently suffer. Verses 18-22 focus upon the suffering of the physical world.

Creation anxiously awaits "the revealing of the sons of God" (v. 19) because it "was subjected to futility" (v. 20). All creation "will be set free" (v. 21), even while presently it "groans and suffers" (v. 22; cf. 2 Cor 5:2). The effects of humanity's Fall are as extensive as all creation (cf. Isa 35) because the destinies of humanity and nature are inseparably related, and thus the restoration of paradise will not occur until every human being is reconciled to God (cf. 2 Cor 5:19). Consequently, the ecological problems of our world will not be resolved entirely until Christ (Messiah) returns.

PRESENT SUFFERINGS . . . ARE MERELY A SMALL ASPECT OF WHAT IS OCCURRING COSMICALLY. . . . THE BELIEVER'S GLORIFICATION IS CERTAIN BECAUSE OF GOD'S ACTIONS IN THE PAST . . . THE PRESENT . . . AND THE FUTURE. . . .

Nevertheless, three divine provisions assist the believer's suffering from becoming unendurable: (1) the redemption of our bodies (Rom 8:23-25); (2) the intercession of the Holy Spirit (vv. 26-27); and, the unassailable purpose of God (v. 28). Verses 29-30 explain how God will achieve the believer's future glory. The believer's glorification is certain because of God's actions in the past (pre-temporal: foreknew, predestined), the present (temporal: called, justified), and the future (post-temporal: glorified).

"What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us?" (v. 31). Scripture reveals a triumphant reply in the closing verses: there is no condemnation for the believer (vv. 31-34) and the believer can never be separated from God (vv. 35-39). Praise God for his glory, grace, and holy provisions!

About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission's mission, in partnership with the church, is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and promote the biblical mandate to pray for those in authority in the Capitol communities throughout the United States and around the world. Every election cycle brings us hundreds of newly elected legislators into the twenty-four state capitols where we presently have a State Minister. We intend to be there to provide pastoral care for these men and women. *Please join us in this ministry!*

TWO MANNERS OF LIVING LIFE	
the person dominated by "the things of the flesh" (v. 5)	the person dominated by "the things of the Spirit" (v. 5)
Two Kinds of People	
"in the flesh" (v. 8)	"in the spirit" (v. 9)
Two Spiritual Conditions	
does not belong to God (v. 9)	does belong to God
Two Births	
born of the flesh (v. 11) (natural birth; cf. John 3:6)	born of the Spirit (v. 11) (spiritual birth; cf. John 3:5-6)
Two Attitudes	
mindset upon the flesh (vv. 5-7)	mindset upon the Spirit (vv. 5-7)
Present Conditions	
death (v. 6) hostile to God not subject to the law of God cannot please God	life, peace (v. 6) indwelling of the Spirit of God alive spiritually will be resurrected
Ultimate Ends	
"must die" (v. 13)	"will live" (v. 13)
Present Possessions	
does not have the Spirit of God (v. 9)	does have the Spirit of Christ (v. 9)
Relationship to God's Law	
hostile; lawless (v. 7) a rebel to God's law and unable to keep divine standards	fulfills the law (v. 4) a Spirit-controlled person who is able to keep God's standards
Relationship to God	
an enemy (v. 7)	adopted as family (v. 14)
Spiritual Guidance	
none (cf. 1 Cor 2:14)	"led by the Spirit of God" (v. 14)
OBLIGATIONS FOR FREEDOM	
compelled to live "in the flesh" dominated by the sin nature (inherited from Adam)	"under obligation" to live holy controlled by the Spirit (received from Christ Jesus)

Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the nobility to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.

NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION (INTERIM) BIBLE STUDY:
Tuesday, 6th of October @ 12 Noon in 123 CAP
(always the 1st Tuesday of each month, during interim)