

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
Series #7: Paul's Letter to the Romans
Session #5: Chapters 7-8
Tuesday, October 25, 2016

Topical Outline (Chapters 1-8)

- I. The Inclusive Saving Power of the Gospel (continued) (1:18 – 11:36)
- A. *The inclusion of the Gentiles on the basis of righteousness by faith (1:18 – 4:25)*
- i) *No other righteousness (1:18 – 3:20)*
 - a) *The revelation of God's wrath against the Gentile world (1:18-32)*
 - b) *Those who "judge" are not immune from the wrath (2:1-11)*
 - c) *Possession of the Law makes no difference (2:12-29)*
 - 1. *The Law and the Gentiles (2:12-16)*
 - 2. *The Law and the Jews (2:17-24)*
 - 3. *The "Real Jew" (2:25-29)*
 - d) *God's faithfulness to Israel stands (3:1-8)*
 - e) *Scripture's witness to universal lack of righteousness (3:9-20)*
 - ii) *The "righteousness of God" is now available to all believers (3:21-26)*
 - iii) *Faith: The sole basis upon which the One God justifies all (3:27-31)*
 - iv) *Scripture's witness to righteousness by faith (4:1-25)*
 - a) *Abraham: Justified on the basis of faith (4:1-12)*
 - b) *Abraham: Paradigm receiver of the Promise on the basis of faith (4:13-25)*
- B. The sure hope of salvation springing from righteousness by faith (5:1 – 8:39)
- i) *The hope that springs from God's love (5:1-11)*
 - ii) *The legacy of Christ (righteousness and life) outweighs the legacy of Adam (sin and death). (5:12-21)*
 - iii) *The freedom to live out the righteousness of God (6:1 – 8:13)*
 - a) *Dead to sin → Alive to God in Christ (6:1-14)*
 - b) *Slaves of righteousness: the new obedience (6:15-23)*
 - c) **Free in Christ from the Law (7:1-6)**
 - 1. Paul uses an analogy from marriage to describe our new relationship to God through Jesus Christ.
 - 2. We are freed from sin through Christ, through whom sin is dead to us, like a woman is freed from the bond of marriage when her husband dies.
 - d) **The fatal encounter with the Law (7:7-13)**
 - 1. The Law is what helps identify the sin that we do.
 - e) **Life under the Law: an ethical "impossibility" (7:14-25)**
 - 1. Unfortunately, there is a constant struggle between knowing what good ought to be done, and the sin which repeatedly sabotages our good intentions and actions.
 - 2. Do you recognize how our General Confession echoes this?
 - f) **Life in the spirit: an ethical "possibility" (8:1-13)**
 - 1. Life in the Spirit through Jesus Christ has set us free from sin and death.

----- Previous Sessions -----

- (i) The flesh is too weak to do this on its own
 - (ii) God sent Jesus Christ as an “imposter” of a sinful human in order to conquer sin.
- 2. Focus on the Spirit
 - (i) Flesh = sin = death
 - (ii) Spirit = life = peace
 - (iii) A mind focused on the flesh cannot submit to God’s law
- iv) Hope of glory for God’s children (8:14-30)**
 - a) Children and heirs of God (8:14-17)**
 - 1. Adoption = full heirs of the promises given to Abraham, even if not descendants biologically
 - (i) *huiiothesian* = adoption = sonship (*huios* = ‘son’)
 - (ii) *apekdechomai* = ‘I eagerly await’
 - b) The “groaning” of creation (8:18-22)**
 - 1. He sets the “woes” of humanity in the context of their being heralds of the end times (eschaton). Note use of the phrase “groaning in labor pains.” (Seen also in Revelation and other apocalyptic writings)
 - 2. “futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it”
 - (i) may hint at some kind of divine cursing
 - (ii) use of a passive verb
 - 3. Is creation being coerced into wanting to glorify God?
 - c) The “groaning” of ourselves (8:23-25)**
 - 1. Paul confronts suffering in the lives of believers
 - 2. Just as creation suffers, believers do too
 - 3. Hope is in things we cannot see.
 - d) The “groaning” of the Spirit (8:26-28)**
 - 1. The spirit comes to our aid in our weakness
 - e) God’s eternal plan (8:29-30)**
 - 1. All things work for good.
 - 2. Those God foreknew he predestined → called → justified → glorified
 - (i) This is an example of **sorites**, a literary device that is like a ladder.
- v) The coming victory of God’s love (8:31-39)**
 - a) Assurance of God’s love despite present adversities.
 - b) List of angels, rulers, powers, etc... may refer to controlling spiritual forces of the old era.
 - 1. 9 Choirs of Angels
 - (i) seraphim, cherubim, thrones, dominions (dominations), powers, virtues, principalities (princedom), archangels, angels.
 - (ii) “Ye watchers and ye holy ones” (*Hymnal 1982*, #618) names all of them!

Resources

B. Byrne, *Romans in Sacra Pagina Series*, D. J. Harrington, editor (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2007)

Notes from *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (NRSV), 2010