

Romans 8:5-8; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 3:10-18; Galatians 5:16-21

Pray to Father for His sovereign grace, to Christ for His teaching of His Word and to the Spirit for His wisdom and understanding.

0. Prelude - Total Depravity

Let me lead in with **Romans 8:3b-4 By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

Now, Paul runs with the thought from verses 1-4 that is essentially the heart of the Gospel. In essence, God lays down His law which is standard of perfection, we try to obey the law, we fail and then we cry out to God, "How on earth can we obey Your law?". God responds, "You cannot on your own but I am going to send my Son, whom you can put your trust in, and He will keep the law perfect and He will fulfill the righteous requirement of the law for you." In other words, God makes a covenant and instead of counting on you to hold your end, the Father sends His Son to do it for you. The covenant is locked in place, never to be broken. But that is for the end of chapter 8.

Let's work on this:

Romans 8:5-8 (ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

When I first came upon this text, I didn't want to do this contrast/compare like we did in Romans 5:12-21 (Adam, Christ, Adam, Christ, etc.) because I felt like that is not what Paul is doing. To me, Paul is presenting two truths: either the wide road to destruction or the narrow and hard gate to life (Matthew 7:13-14) and you are on one of these paths and you know which path you are on.

Forgive me because I have never even step foot into a seminary but what I am going to do with these verses is take them in entirety, cut them in half down the middle, talk about one half and then other half next week.

Here's what I mean. Take verses 5-8 and lets talk about what it means to not belong to Christ:

For those who live according to the flesh have set their minds on the things of the flesh, you are hostile to God, you do not and cannot submit to God's law and it is impossible for you to please God. You are going to die.

I. For those who live according to the flesh have set their minds on the things of the flesh

Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Romans 1:29-31 (ESV) They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

1 Timothy 1:8-11 (ESV) Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

I don't think I need to go on.

Matthew 5:27-30 (ESV) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

How in the world can you win? How can you even be good in this world?

I pull up these passages and think, "Well that is me. That's me. I am a liar. I am still have a lustful heart. I am foolish with my time and money and resources. You are a unbeliever and you know these things are in your heart. You know you carry bitterness, anger, resentment, jealousy inside of you. I am supposed to be a Christian and yet I still have these things in my heart." It is Paul's passage in Romans 7:7-25 is the cry of my heart: "*What I want to do is good but yet I keep doing evil things or even better, do not do the good things that should be done.*"

Or to be summed up like this: **Romans 7:24 (ESV)** *Wretched, pitiful man, full of sorrow, that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

Lets keep going.

II. *you are hostile to God*

Psalm 3:7 (ESV) *Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.*

Psalm 6:10 (ESV) *All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.*

Psalm 7:6 (ESV) *Arise, O Lord, in your anger; lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies; awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.*

Psalm 9:3 (ESV) *When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence. Some translations will say, "my enemies will stumble and perish because of your presense."*

Psalm 37:20 (ESV) *But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.*

It is funny in that a book (The Psalm) known for it's praises to God that it would contain so many references to God vanquishing His enemies. Yet let us look at another book, very well known but not really well know for praise & worship as it should be:

And if you know me or been following me for sometime, you know I was going to try to come back to this passage because quite frankly, it is the coolest passage in the Bible:

You got to imagine this: Jesus, on a white horse, just drew a sword out of His mouth, coming out of the clouds, eyes full of fire, head full of crowns, robe dipped in blood, and is called The Word of God. You have heard it preached, the Bible is not about you but it is about Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:15-18 (ESV) *From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both

free and slave, both small and great.”

Pay attention to verse 19:

Revelation 19:19-21 (ESV) And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Who makes war against God? Those who are hostile to God.

Who is hostile to God? Those who do not believe and trust in Him for eternal life.

If I don't believe in Him but I don't have anger issues or I am pacifist, how can I be hostile? If you do not walk and live according to the Spirit, you are walking according to the flesh and therefore you have your mind set on flesh and your mind is therefore hostile to God. I don't care how "spiritual" you think you are or whatever spirits you pray to. If it ain't to God the Father through the His Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, then you are praying to Satan and his demons. There is no third team full of fairies and goody good spirits going from human to human sprinkling magic pixie dust and making everybody feel warm and cozy.

III. you do not and cannot submit to God's law; it is impossible for you to please God

You might be able to read God's law and do it a 'T' but without salvation, that is justification by Christ alone and the regenerative work of Christ Jesus alone, it is really all for naught.

Psalm 40:6 (ESV)

**In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering
you have not required.**

Amos 5:21-24 (ESV)

**“I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

You get to worship God in the way you want and not in the way He deserves.

You get to call on Him when things get a little bit tough but ignore Him when things are good to go.

"Hey Lord. Hmm, nothing for me thanks, I am good to go. What's that? You want me to share your gospel with my neighbors? You see, my schedule is really booked with work and stuff which is all the stuff You have provided which I am totally grateful. Well, maybe if my schedule frees up a bit, I will let you know. Love ya, kthxbai!"

Or even better yet, you praise Him only when you things are great but you curse him when you get hit with something like cancer or sickness or your spouse walks out on you or God forbid, one of your kids die. You have a lifetime of going to church every weekend, whole family is Christian, many times in the middle of the week, went to the VBSs, was homeschool or Christian private school, went to Christian college, got the nice job, got married, got the kids in the suburbs, gave tithes and offerings and even raised your hands in praise & worship

and then tragedy strikes and you shake you fist at God and declare, "How dare this happen to me?! I did everything right and you let me down like this? If God is real then it can't be a loving God."

The littliest, smallest thing breaks your faith. What the truth of it is that if that thing was the thing that broke your faith, then you really had no faith whatsoever... at least not in God.

What happens now?

You put your faith in something that you can control and manipulate and make it your own. **James 4:4** says that "... **You wish to become a friend of the world and in that, you become an enemy of God.**" Put your faith in things not God and you will see that...

V. ... all you end up is with death.

Romans 8:6a (ESV) For to set the mind on the flesh is death...

James 2:10 (ESV) For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

Romans 1:32 (ESV) Though they know God's decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

Romans 6:23a (ESV) For the wages of sin is death...

This world, according to Genesis 1 & 2, was perfect and good at one time according to God's perfect plan. Then our original parents, Adam and Eve, choose not trust in God and His plan for perfect peace but instead choose to trust in themselves. Thus all of entire creation breaks and starts to long downhill slope into death.

All of us, those who are listening on the podcast, reading these notes and even I, the one who is speaking into the mic, were born thinking that the same plan that Adam & Eve went after is a pretty good plan despite the historical fact that the plan of me being a god and me opposing the will of God goes horribly bad and ends up in death.

Like, I don't have to beat you over the heads with recession talk. But think for a moment, "Was my faith in my paycheck, my retirement funds, my investment, my money or was it in God?". Guess what? That god of money and investments and security blanket that you had your faith in? He is very much dead. Since that god of money is neither holy nor righteous nor having the Spirit of God, he didn't come back to life after 3 days. Several months into this and you can go check out the rotting corpse in the corner and poke him with a stick. "Yep, still dead."

So what can save me from having a mind set on the flesh? What can keep me from being an enemy of God and make me His friend? How can I truly submit to God's law? How can I have faith in Him? How can I live forever?

All of that is next week.

Let's pray.

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