

# ROMANS - #8A

## ANTIOCH BIBLE CLASS

### LESSON TOPIC

## A SPIRIT FILLED LIFE

### SCRIPTURE TEXT: ROMANS 8:1-23

MEMORY VERSE: ROM. 8:11 – But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

### INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter revealed two things: (1) The power of grace to enable us to deny the temptations of fleshly lusts and desires and overcome them; (2) The struggle or conflict that always rages in the Christian life between good and evil; righteousness and unrighteousness or the desires of the flesh and the will of God. That struggle is won by the power of God through his plan in Jesus Christ.

With victory over the deeds of the flesh, condemnation is gone; we now have a new life through and by the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Being thus empowered, we walk in the (life of) Spirit. We don't rely on the carnal mind because it is not possible to please God by following the mind or will of the flesh. We seek after the things of the Spirit of God, which is a hallmark of he that is born of the Spirit of God. The will and strength of the very best the carnal mind can do will only lead us to sin and death. It is the work and power of the Spirit of God that enables us to overcome the deeds of our body. The ultimate aim of this victory over the will of the flesh by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit is the redemption of our bodies. As the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter outlined so clearly, it is in the crucifixion or mortifying of our "members" that we serve the Lord Jesus. Therefore, as Paul wrote, we die daily to the constant temptations of our flesh. Thus being dead in our flesh, we live unto Christ by His Spirit.

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE is the message of Romans 8:1-23.

### DAILY SCRIPTURES AND COMMENTS.

MONDAY. ROM. 8:1. CONDEMNATION LIFTED.

SCRIPTURE.

V1. There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

#### COMMENTS.

Under the law condemnation reigned. The law had no power to remove the guilt and power of sin. Keeping the Ten Commandments faithfully will not save you in spite of the rather subtle acclaim that is given to them as being the height of Godly achievement. If they could, Christ died in vain. That is not to say that the commandments were not good; they were. If the whole world would at least obey them, society would dramatically improve, but they cannot save you.

By God's grace (love, mercy, forgiveness, etc.) he has made provisions for our salvation. Those provisions are in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. It might be a controversial statement, but just believing that Christ died, was buried and rose again, as a manifestation of the love of God, will not save you. As Paul has emphasized in chapters six and seven, and now in chapter eight, this process of death, burial and resurrection must become effective in our own lives for God's redemption to deliver us from sin. It is not just because Jesus Christ lived; otherwise every person in the world would already be saved. It is because that he has made provisions whereby we can surrender our lives to him for him to transform us from a life of the flesh to a child of God.

Therefore because of that fact (above), there is now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, to those who walk not after the former ways of the flesh, but after the new life in Christ in his Spirit.

#### TUESDAY. ROM. 8:2-4. FREE FROM SIN AND DEATH.

#### SCRIPTURES.

V2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4. That the righteous of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

#### COMMENTS.

The "law" of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is not describing our life in Christ as being under a set of commandments as was the case under the Law of Moses. It is saying that the binding process of that work of redemption which Christ administers to every life which comes to him is the process which delivers us from the former "law" which could only manifest our sin and death. Indeed, this process of redemption in Christ does have a "binding force" to it, in that it has power over sin and death to destroy its bondage and make us free. The law had no such power or "binding force" against sin and death. It was weak because it was a work of the flesh and had no more power over sin and death than human flesh. Then Christ came in the very likeness of sinful flesh, so that as a substitute for our sin and by his overcoming the temptations of sin in his own flesh, he could condemn sin while living in his human, fleshly life.

### WEDNESDAY. ROM. 8:5-11. QUICKENED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

#### SCRIPTURES.

V5. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. 10. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

#### COMMENTS.

The primary argument Paul makes with these verses is that there is power by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is able to deliver and keep us from sin and lead us into righteousness. The carnal mind, the fleshly mind, the desires and will of human nature, all, are opposed to the mind of the Holy Spirit. Carnal mindedness is pervasive in every area of life, even in religious lives, yes, especially in religious lives. The carnal mind, that is, the way man thinks within his own mind and wisdom, no matter how enlightened it may be in earthly knowledge, is contrary to the mind of God and is in no way subject to it unless, by way of submission to God's redemptive plan, it has been transformed to discern and follow the mind of Christ. Even then, we must remember that, while we may seek to find and follow the mind of the Spirit, the mind of the flesh is always seeking to influence our way.

Without the mind (Spirit) of Christ, the carnal mind can only roam in fleshly imaginations and passions and does not know what the mind of the Spirit of God is. Under the Law of Moses, the carnal mind deliberated the things of the law. Under the dispensation of the Holy Spirit, the things of God must be deliberated by the inspiration and revelation of God. The Spirit of Christ in you will inspire and enable you to follow him.

The foundation, basis and function of the Christian life, is in the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. There is no power in heaven or earth that can raise a human mind and heart from spiritual death in sin but the Holy Spirit. Likewise, there is no power in heaven or earth that can provide a literal resurrection from the grave but the Holy Spirit. That Spirit must dwell within our hearts here and now through the process of God's work of redemption. There is no other resurrection power.

### THURSDAY. ROM. 8: 12-17. BEGOTTEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

#### SCRIPTURES.

V12. Therefore, brethren, ye are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15. For ye have not received the

spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

#### COMMENTS.

If you live after and in harmony with the desires of the fleshly will, you will die as a sinner. However, if you mortify the deeds of the body by the power of the Holy Spirit, then Christ will give you life. This carries us back to the thoughts about continuing in sin so that grace may be magnified, to which Paul declared: God forbid. The deeds of the flesh must be put to death, like Christ voluntarily died for our sins.

One of the greatest proofs that you are a child of God is that you are daily led by the Spirit of God in all things. We have been adopted as his children and we can call him our heavenly Father. Because of this relationship, we have an inheritance in the Lord. Our inheritance is eternal life, just as Christ, by his resurrection from the grave, also has eternal life. If we live for him here by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we shall be glorified with him (by the resurrection) in eternal life.

#### FRIDAY. ROM. 8:18-23. THE REDEMPTION OF THE BODY.

#### SCRIPTURES.

V18. For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. 20. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. 21. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

#### COMMENTS.

Paul, having emphasized in several verses the power and necessity of the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in order to be led by the mind of the Spirit, now relates it to the very real and prevailing conditions of their suffering for Christ's sake and the ultimate glory which shall be to those who are crafted by that work for eternal life. With victorious ecstasy, he emphatically declares that, while there are sufferings to endure as we live day by day in this mortal state, they are nothing in comparison with the glory which shall be ours in the eternal day. And with all our longing expectation we faithfully await that day.

The creature (mankind) has, in all of its existence been subject to vanity, that is, a fleshly, carnal, empty way of life. This subjugation to carnality is not something mankind wants, that is to say, all of the burdens and pain of an earthly, fleshly life which result in death; but instead he wants total

freedom and pleasantness. There is now hope, however, in this present life and that hope comes by reason of him who has subjected this vain, earthly life to the glory which shall be revealed in the eternal state of the righteous. It is at that time, when the “creature” (mankind) shall be delivered from the bondage of corruptibility in which we now live, into that glorious liberty which shall be given to those who are the children of God.

The whole creation, all mankind of all time, has always groaned with the afflictions and woes of this corruptible, mortal state. That also includes all of us who have the first fruits of the Spirit, i.e. born of God, in this mortal “groaning” which this fleshly life subjects us to. However, our “groaning” is borne with a hope which we are waiting for, even the hope of the redemption of our body.

With this expression of a glorious hope for the redemption of our body, by which we shall be delivered from all of the vain, corruptibility of this fleshly life, Paul has in one stroke destroyed this notion that our bodies are just a prison house of no value to God. Instead he proclaims it as the grand object of redemption from its corruptibility and that this deliverance is the grand and glorious scheme of the plan of salvation.

#### SUMMARY

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. The fleshly mind is not subject to the mind of the Spirit and cannot discern what the will of God is. If the Spirit of him who raised Christ from the dead dwells in us, then he is able to quicken our mortal bodies and minds so that we may subdue our earthly desires unto the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, those who are thus led by the Spirit of God are his children and are delivered from the bondage of the flesh unto a glorious inheritance with Christ. Even so, there will still be many thorns and much suffering as we live in this mortal, corruptible state, with all of its vanity and emptiness. However, as children of God, while we groan along with the rest of creation because of this “body of death”, yet we have hope, a grand and glorious hope, that we shall reach the glorious deliverance of the children of God in that day when he comes again. This deliverance shall be the ultimate reclamation of our bodies from the corruptibility of sin and death, unto the utopian grandeur of immortality, incorruptibility which is our eternal life.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Why is it so that the mind of the flesh, no matter how enlightened, is not subject to the mind of the Spirit?
2. Is there a plan that can change this?
3. What does it mean to be led by the Holy Spirit?
4. What will happen to these corruptible, fleshly bodies in which we now groan?