

Romans - God's Heart Explained

Week #10: Living in the Power of the Spirit.

December 08, 2019

Paul's letter to the Christians living in Rome is perhaps the most influential book of the Bible outside the four Gospels. Its influence lies in the way God's heart is explained, and how His heart powerfully interrupts our empty existence. The American Pastor, Charles Swindoll describes Romans as God's grace invading the sin-fueled storms of our humanity - a grace that puts an end to our emptiness by offering forgiveness, new life through Jesus Christ and hope both for this present life we live and what lies beyond.¹ More than any other book, Romans explains our depravity, God's holiness, Christ's redemption and what new life in Jesus really means. You cannot follow Jesus well without comprehending what Paul writes to the Christians in Rome.

Our Sunday teaching on Romans this fall will speak to some of these deep truths that we must grow familiar with: human depravity; justification through faith; sanctification in Christ; glorification in God. But the mind is never the target ... it's our heart that matters. So, while engaging our minds with the goal of renewing them, we will consistently target our heart - because God wants our affections not merely our assent.

Study Questions: The habits of Sanctification.

Read Romans 8:1-17

1. Paul begins Chapter 8 by *again* pointing out that through Jesus the Christian is not condemned. However, this time he tells us that the Spirit of God is also involved in this miracle.
 - Why has he waited until now talk about the Holy Spirit?
 2. Pastor Ken reminded us that the Holy Spirit is fully God, not a Jr. Partner.
 - Why does the Spirit tend to be the forgotten and overlooked member of the Trinity?
 - Read Acts 1-2. What happened when the Spirit empowered the disciples on Pentecost?
 - Read Galatians 5:16-26. What are the signs of the Spirit's reign in our lives?
 - Read Romans 8:5-11. What does it look like to set your mind on things of the flesh? What things do you rehearse, replay & rehash in your mind? What things do you worry, stress & chew on? What does it look like to set your mind on things of the Spirit?
 3. Ken also said that the Spirit does not improve my life - He gives me a new one.
 - How is my new life more than a renovation of my old life? What's different?
 - Read 2 Corinthians 5. How does this chapter help shed light on our new lives?
 4. Last week you were asked to identify the habits of Jesus, simplifying them down to 4-5 essentials that He practiced?
 - With these before you, consider whether they are at all possible without the supernatural power of God, the Holy Spirit. How would even attempting them on your own strength produce only frustration and even despair?
 5. The Holy Spirit possessed you when you embraced Jesus. What is left now is the daily surrender of your will to His.
 - Is there anything that frightens you about surrendering your will to the Spirit? What are you afraid will happen if you do?
 - As you see sin's devastation throughout the Cowichan Valley, how is the Holy Spirit motivating you to do something, and gathering others to join you?
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