

# Walking Through Romans to Christ

## Romans chapter 8, part 1 “A Battle for the Mind”

Righteousness by Faith Series

**Opening/REVIEW:** *Imagine a prisoner sitting in a prison cell. It is dark, cold, and dreary. There was nothing to live for there. What is it that keeps the prisoners alive? What keeps them going? It is a hope that they have! They hope that one day, they will be free! Why do some prisoners try to escape and others don't? Some try because they are desperate for freedom, and they believe it is possible to be free? (If you had no hope, you'd never try. And surely, you'd never escape either, because you'd never attempt it. **Often**, when people are in a captive situation, the captors treat them with bad handling, and verbal abuse (like with terrorists). Why is this? It's because they know that **if you can abuse and take the mind, then you've got the person. If hope is gone, they'll be your captives forever.** (If they don't think they can escape, then they never will).*

**In Romans 7 we found a captive situation.** *There was a struggle that was going on. It was a struggle between (1) the righteous law of God (in the mind), and (2) the Law of sin and death. It was a struggle for how to live God's law precisely, and not be captive to the sinful nature which drags people down in bondage! **Is there a hope of escape?** Absolutely! Paul mentions that escape and **hope** in Romans 7:22,25!! None need to give up as if it was hopeless to escape Satan's grasp. If the mind belongs to Jesus, but the body seems captive to sin, we must realize that Jesus can set us free. **What is the way out? Romans 8 provides answers.***

### 1. What is the third law which sets us free from the law of sin and death? (v.1-3,4)

- a. (v.1) *Those who are in Christ Jesus and walk after the Spirit, will not be under condemnation. We must be born of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5-8). The effects of the Holy Spirit will be the fruit of righteousness in our life. This includes the power of self-control or Temperance (**Galatians 5:22,23**). Without Christ we can do nothing, but by the daily infilling of His Spirit all things will be possible (John 15:4,5; 14:17,18; Philippians 4:13). Jesus sets us free! (v.2; Luke 4:18; John 8:32-36).*
- b. (v.3,4) *Christ “condemned sin in the flesh.” He lived and walked according to the righteous desires of the Spirit. Though He did experience the pull or temptations of the flesh (**Hebrews 4:14,15**), yet He did not sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). He calls us to overcome, even as He has done (Revelation 3:21).*

### 2. The Battle for your Mind (v.5-9)

- a. (v.5,6) *There are two choices for our minds. We may set our minds upon the things of the Spirit, or the things of the flesh. The flesh brings death, but the Spirit brings life and peace. The stakes are life and death. **So what are the things that we are minding? What kind of seeds are we sowing? What is the nature that we are feeding?** Is it the spiritual one, or is it the things of the flesh? Like two dogs about to fight, the one you feed will be the one who wins. As converted followers of Christ, we are to have “enmity” against the fleshly things of Satan (Genesis 3:15). **What we sow, we will reap (Galatians 6:7,8).** There are the things of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) and the things of God's Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23). Every thought should be made “captive” to Christ (2 Corinthians*

10:5). We must behold Christ and His truth always! By beholding we become changed (2 Cor. 3:17,18). Protect your mind by guarding the avenues to the soul—the eyes, ears, etc (Isaiah 33:15; Psalm 101:3). **Be sure that you're meditating about the right things (Philippians 4:8).** The carnal, sin-loving mind must be replaced by the "mind" of Christ (Philippians 2:5). **Satan has a plan to take your mind and capture you in sin.** Satan seeks to feed the mind with every imaginable evil through your senses. He puts his evil acts, words, and suggestions all over the secular music, Television, magazine, and entertainment world. **But, Christ has a plan for our minds too.** Jesus wants to fill our minds with the "sanctifying" truths of His Holy word. We must take advantage of Christ's plan and fill our minds with the words of heaven's holiness if we ever expect to overcome or be holy at last. We cannot be spiritually lazy, but we must be diligent (See Matthew 4:4, spiritual food; Psalm 119:9,11, the cleansing word; John 17:17, sanctifying word; 1 Peter 2:2, causes us to grow; 2 Peter 1:4, make us partakers of the Divine nature). We must **totally immerse** our minds in God's holy Scriptures (**Deuteronomy 6:6,7**). The Holy Spirit will bring those holy words back to our minds at the right times (John 14:26; Proverbs 6:22). If we fail to feed on Christ's words, then there'll be no words for the Spirit to remind us of. Don't allow God's word to be drowned out by Satan's distractions or media of the world either (See Mark 4:19). It's hard to have the sanctifying words of Christ flowing through your mind if you have the sinful lyrics, rhymes, and pictures of worldly music and movies filling your head instead. The final Crisis of this world's history is soon to come upon us. Shall we be prepared?

- b. (v.7-9) "The carnal mind is enmity against God..." The mind which is based upon the flesh cannot keep God's laws. But those who live by the Spirit and are filled with this Holy Spirit will be at true peace with God—living according to righteousness.

### 3. **We are not slaves to live according to the flesh—Christ makes us free! (v.10-13, 14-17)**

- a. (v.10,11) Christ living in us puts to body of sin to death. He then raises us to life by His Spirit to walk in the pathway of Holiness! He gives power to live righteously.
- b. (v.12-14) We are not debtors to the flesh. Some have thought, "Oh, I'm helpless to overcome my sins," and they've been quick to give up. Well, by themselves, that may be true. But, in Christ, that suggestion is a lie from the devil himself! "We are not debtors to the flesh..." (v.12). If we choose that course of earthly life, we'll die for eternity! The flesh must be "put to death" by the Spirit living within us. By FAITH in Christ and the POWER of His Spirit, we will have victory—praise be to God forever!
- c. (v.15-17) In faith, we will have victory, life, and peace, as the faithful children of God. "...and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our FAITH" (**1 John 5:4**). Jesus is "able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless..." (Jude 24, 25). Let our prayer be, "Father lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13).
- d. We will have sweet communion together with the loving Father of all. His abiding presence will be with us and in us.

**Today's Appeal:** Are you willing to seize victory through God's Spirit and to live a life in pursuit of holiness? \_\_\_\_\_