

Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 4:17 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Romans 8:1-13

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His Own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit!" (Romans 8:1-4)

Douglas Moo calls this "a wonderful summary of the work of God in our lives"! It begins with the "mighty declaration" that, as a believer in Christ (having been justified by faith), we are no longer under the condemnation of the law and sin! Jesus Himself proclaimed this "good news" to come, in John 5:24, when He said: "Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life"!

He also said--as He was about to go to the cross--that He would "ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you!" And this is what we see in Romans 8--the Holy Spirit indwelling the life of the believer and, among other things, now enabling the believer to experience power and victory over sin in his or her life!

Paul reminds us, in verses 8-9, that we (speaking of believers) are "not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells us"! And He does, if we're true believers! But as Paul previously established in Romans 7, even though we're "not in the flesh but in the Spirit," the flesh is still in us--and will be there as long as we're in this life! And so, there's an ongoing struggle within us, as Paul discusses in verses 5-8, and it has a lot to do with our "mindset"!

Scripture has much to say about this struggle, the struggle which was so familiar to the apostle Paul himself! Moo characterizes it with three words: position, mindset, and lifestyle.

Our position is "in Christ." That, according to Moo, is the "new realm" in which we now live. But, alive in that state, we need to "cultivate" the mind-set of the Spirit--a mind "focused on the Spirit's values, which will ultimately produce a life-style that pleases God! And this is the work of the Holy Spirit, but in which--according to Scripture--we play a vital role!

I was reminded of this, ironically, while I was headed to our MOB study last nite--passing by the Interstate Building on Rolling Road (just before Kings Park). They always have sayings or words of wisdom lit up on their billboard--and last nite just happened to have one saying: "The mind is everything! What you think you become!" Interesting!

Colossians 3:2-17 says: "Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are of earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God! ...Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and

greed... Put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech... Put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...! Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness... Beyond all these things, put on love... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called...and be thankful! Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another...singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God! Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father!" Wow!

We could cite lots more Scripture along the same line! For example, Romans 12:1-2--"Therefore I urge you brethren, by the mercies of God, to "present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect!"

And so, we see Moo's characterization of the words position, mind-set, and life-style--in that order--for the believer! It's really all about the process of sanctification, whereby the believer--having been "saved" from the penalty of sin (through "justification") is now "is being" delivered from the power of sin! And someday, according to Romans 8:11, will be saved from the very presence of sin (glorification).

MacArthur notes that the Holy Spirit is the One who "provides us with energy and power to continually and gradually deal with sin in our lives...and that this process (of sanctification) is accomplished through our obedience to the simple commands of Scripture!" And so, the reason for our MOB study!

Well we've just begun our study of Romans 8--and we're going to learn more about the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer in the weeks ahead!

And so, as a well-known radio Bible teacher (can't think of his name) used to say in signing off his broadcast: "Walk with the Lord today, and be a blessing!"

Can hardly wait to get into Romans 8:12-17!

Lowell