

Life & Death (Pt. 5)
Good News vs Fake News
Romans 8:1-11
Pastor Jeff Borden
April 2, 2017

What is "Fake" news?

- An **element** of truth
- **Distorts** the truth
- Results in improper **understanding** and **action**

Fake news says, "I can't be like Jesus, I'm a fallen human, I'll always be broken."

What is "Good News?" (A Christian response)

- The "good news" is **the Gospel** (Greek) *euaggélion* – literally, "God's good news."
- What it (the good news) is: (1 Cor. 15:1-8) Christ died, was buried, and was raised.

What the good news means: All of humanity, **once separated** from God, has been **reconciled** to God.

Through this reconciliation, God is restoring all of creation to its original intent.

Some promises that facilitate redemption from sin, reconciliation to God, and restoration to the divine image of God in humanity.

- Ezekiel 37:1-14 "I will put my spirit in you..."
- Psalm 130 "He will redeem us from all our iniquities"
- Romans 8:6-11 "He will give life to your mortal body"
- John 11:1-45 "Unbind (them) and let (them) go!"

Additional Notes:

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LifeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Our teaching this week informed us about “good news.” When the Bible instructs us to proclaim the “good news” to others, what does that mean? How do **you** define the Bible’s “good news,” and why is this good news important or why does it make a difference?
- Pastor Jeff spent time in Romans chapter eight during his teaching this week. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:2 *“The Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death”* (NIV). What do you think Paul means? What does this mean for you personally?
- Continuing in Romans chapter eight (Rom. 8:8-9), we read; *“Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature, but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ”* (NIV). Discuss the following major points and how they impact you directly:
 - The sinful nature cannot please God. What nature controls you? How is does that nature reveal itself to others?
 - Paul says “you” are controlled by the Spirit... Are you?
 - Can you definitively say the Spirit of God lives in you? What is your evidence?
 - “If anyone does not have the Spirit, he does not belong to Christ.” How does a person “get” the Spirit?
- Romans 8:11 seems to be speaking about resurrection (both, in Christ and his followers). Do you think there is any implication that Paul could be speaking about anything else? Explain your thoughts and reasoning.
- Read Romans 8:12 in several translations/versions (you might use the internet tool www.biblegateway.com). Suggested versions follow: The Voice, NLT, The Message. Do the versions you read from have the same meaning to you as your personal Bible of choice? What do you think about your findings?
- This teaching from Romans can be enlightening, encouraging, and deeply convicting. How did it affect you? Are you compelled to respond in any way? What will be your response?