

A GODLY WALK

Monday, May 29

Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Romans 8:5 *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

Having discussed the constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit, Paul now describes the life of victory a believer can have in Christ Jesus. Satan uses our guilt over past sins and present failures to make us feel condemned. However, those who are in Christ Jesus no longer stand condemned by God. Now they need not walk in their old sinful ways, but walk according to the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Means of a Godly Walk (8:1-4) – The law could never provide salvation because sinful humanity was not able to keep it. But what the law could not do, Jesus did by becoming a man and dying in our place. He came “in the likeness of sinful flesh.” In other words, He was fully human in every way except He did not have a sinful nature. He came because of our sin and by His death condemned sin. Now instead of believers standing condemned, sin itself is now condemned! The law required holiness (Leviticus 11:44-45) but was powerless to make this a reality in the sinner’s life. Now through the death of Christ His holiness is applied to all who believe through the indwelling Spirit.

The Motives of a Godly Walk (8:5-8) – Those who walk after their old sinful nature live for themselves. Their goals are geared toward pleasing their sinful natures. The end result is hostility with God. They cannot obey God’s law because they reject the only Power that would enable them to do so. They are not capable of pleasing God. The only outcome of such a lifestyle is death! In contrast, those who walk by the Spirit live to please the Spirit and not themselves. The end result of this godly lifestyle is peace with God, abundant life now, and everlasting life in the future.

The Might for a Godly Walk (8:9-11) – The only way to have a godly walk is to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. The proof that one is a child of God is the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The physical body is still under the curse of sin and will one day die. Yet the promise of the Spirit is that one day the believer will be raised and this body will be transformed. The Spirit is the believer’s guarantee of eternal life (Ephesians 1:13-14).

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. “There Is Now No Condemnation.” This is really a restatement of the wonderful promise Jesus made in John 5:24: “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” We need not feel guilty of past sins for they are wiped clean by the blood of Jesus. We need not fear God’s judgment for Jesus took our judgment on the cross. What a wonderful message that our sins are forgiven and our future is assured. Take time to thank God for your salvation.
2. “The Spirit of God Lives in You.” We often forget that God the Holy Spirit lives within us. If this fact was a driving force in our lives than why would we do some of the sinful, stupid things we do! How can you make the Spirit’s presence more real in your life? How would your thoughts and actions change if you made living by the Spirit the centerpiece of your life?