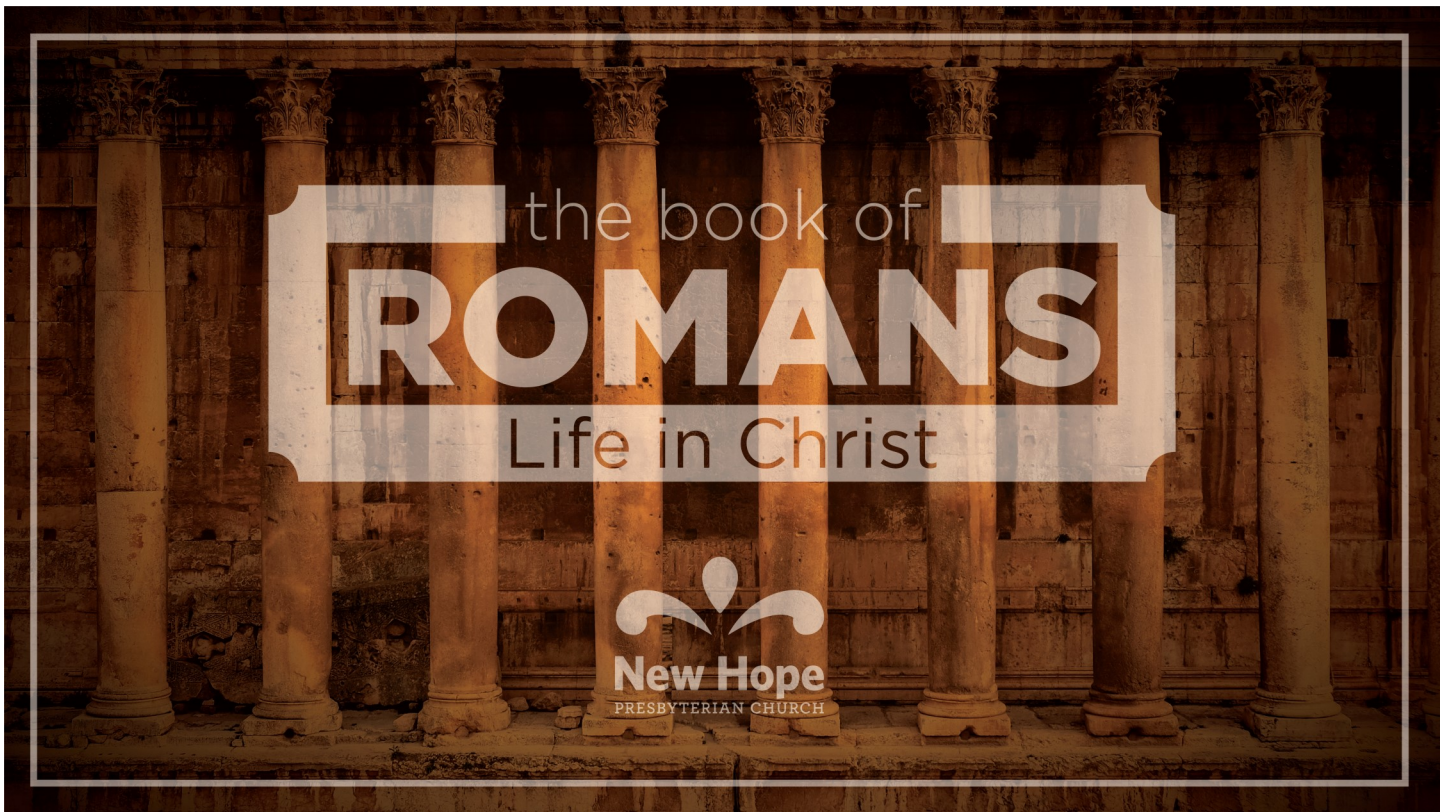




Romans: Life in Christ Study Guide

The Spirit

October 31, 2021

Romans 8:1-17

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

1. To fully appreciate the wonder of the first half of chapter 8, re-read 7:14-25. Then read 8:1-17. What a difference a few lines make! Contrast the second half of chapter 7 with the first half of chapter 8. What do you notice?
2. The Spirit of God has only been mentioned three times so far in Romans. In this chapter, the Spirit is mentioned 21 times! What do you notice about the Spirit in these verses? What does the Spirit do? What is the Spirit like? Notice, too, the Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—are all active in this chapter.
3. Paul sets up a contrast here between life/death, life in the Spirit/ life in the flesh. What is his point?
4. Underline the preposition *in* every time you come across it in the passage. What does it mean to you that Christ dwells *in* you? That his Spirit dwells *in* you? Ponder this wonderful gift.
5. Paul uses the language of adoption in 8:15-17. As God's children, we are adopted into a family. Reflect on the image of family. What implications does this image have for us in the church? How does it guide our life together?
6. Don't miss that life in Christ will mean suffering with him (v.17). What does this mean for your daily life?

Reflections on Romans

"Is it not remarkable that the great God wants to have his Holy Spirit *inside* our very unworthy lives? But this is the clear teaching of the Apostle Paul in this his richest teaching of the Holy Spirit in all his writings. The first great surprise of the Gospel is that we get to have God at all, and, indeed, a perfectly right relationship with this God, by simple faith in his Son. The second great surprise of the Gospel is that this great God not only wants to live *with* us but—is this possible?—to live *within* us as well. But this appears to be the clear meaning of Paul's doctrine of the Holy Spirit in our eighth chapter.

From *A Letter to the Romans: A Short Commentary*, by Dale Bruner, p.110

Next Week: Romans 8:18-39