

# Romans – The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 40-“God’s Biblical Post-it Note – Part 1”

### *What to Remember When Life Makes You Forget*

#### **Romans 8:1-17**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 1, 2015*

The content of Romans 8 is the apex of the entire book of Romans, but God’s not really saying anything new. To some degree, Romans 8 is a reminder of what He’s covered in the first 7 chapters because He knows we need to hear it again!

#### **Background on what’s led up to Romans 8:**

In Romans 8 Paul restated, in a vastly expanded form, what he’s already said in Rom. 5:1-11.

In Romans 7, Paul drug us through the depressing reality of how the law actually stirs up sin in us and how even though we’ve been set free from the penalty and power of sin in our lives, we still struggle with the very presence of sin that’s still very much alive in our flesh and nature. This shows up when the things we say we don’t want to do again, we do and the very things we say we want to start doing more of, sometimes still go undone.

Paul’s emotions exploded about this when he cried out...

**Romans 7:24** “Oh wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

He knew that his total deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ would one day be his, but right now there’s a struggle that’s so intense sometimes it overshadows the truth of who we really are now in Christ.

**J.I. Packer** says...

“The writing of these verses in Romans 7 had clouded Paul’s own joy, and as a good pastor, always thinking of the effect his words would have, he knew that the reading of them would spread the gloom and he does not think it’s right to leave the Roman Christians contemplating the sad side of their experience and feeling as if they were back under the law. So he sees the need to remind them at once that what is decisive is not what the law says about them, but what the gospel says, because the gospel demands the last word...Paul now picks back up again the theme of Christian assurance and develops it as forcibly as he can, from ‘no condemnation’ at the start of chapter 8 to ‘no separation’ at the close.” (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 257)

Romans 8 doesn’t get us out Romans 7. None of us will get out of Romans 7 until Christ returns or takes us home.

But Romans 8 is God’s Post-it note stuck right on our heart to remind us of what’s true about us even while we struggle through some of those Romans 7 days, weeks, or months!

Check out **Romans 8:1-39**

There are **FOUR REMINDERS** on God's Post-it Note that He wants to be stuck on the heart of every Christian.

We'll look at two of them this week and other two next week.

**I. If You're a Christian You Need to Take A Closer Look at the Way You're Fighting Sin in Your Life v. 1-13**

- Do we still sin?
- Do we still battle the lusts of the flesh every day?

Yes! You will still battle sin, with good days and bad days. But your good days will start to outnumber your bad days when you understand better HOW you're supposed to fight!

Don't ever forget that God has given us a new way to fight. We don't fight in our own strength with the old weapons. Yes, sin still remains but things are not the same. The battle is not being fought on the same terms anymore. There have been some radical changes!

**A. You Fight with a Free Heart Now!**

v. 1 There's no condemnation because of our sin

You don't have to slug it out, covered over with guilt now!

v. 4 There's no expectation of us keeping the law

**B. You Fight with the Spirit's Power Now!**

v. 5-6 The Spirit RENEWS your mind to think differently

v. 8-9 The Spirit ENABLES you to actually please God now

v. 13 The Spirit EMPOWERS you to go after your sins of the flesh and put them to death

Here's the difference! You don't want sin anymore. You don't want see how close you can get to sin, or how much you can get away with and still go to heaven. You don't want find out how close you can stand to edge of sin without falling in.

You want holiness and you want to keep in step with the Spirit. That's radically different than before you were a Christian.

When you're stuck in Romans 7, you can begin to lose your perspective. God reminds you to take a closer look at the way you're fighting sin in your life. Remember the resources He's given you for this fight –the Holy Spirit who lives inside of you! You don't fight alone anymore!

## **II. If You're a Christian You Better Keep Looking Past Your 'Birth Certificate' and Take Another Look at Your Adoption Papers v. 14-17**

Romans 1-3 hammers home the fact that we're all born with a birth certificate that's stamped "Sinner." It's automatic and inescapable because we've all got Adam's blood running through our veins. But God wants you to remember that your spiritual adoption papers supersede your birth certificate.

It's your adoption papers you need to be looking at far more than your birth certificate.

When you look at your adoption papers you're reminded of:

- Who it is that owns you now
- What family you belong to
- Who you call 'Daddy'

### **A. You're a Child of God v. 14**

### **B. You Don't Have to Be Afraid to Call Him "Daddy" v. 15**

### **C. You Don't Have to Live Like an Orphan – Grabbing All the Gusto You Can Right Now v. 16-17**

Thank God this morning that Paul didn't leave us moping around in the end of Romans 7! Thank God Paul had a sensitive pastor's heart and he knew he needed to get us to refocus on the glorious truths of who we are in Christ now!