

ROMANS 8:12-25, Secured

In last week's Easter Lesson ([see it on our web page, Kelham.org](http://www.kelham.org)), I neglected to point out that **Easter Sunday** is also the Jew's **Feast of First Fruits** (Lev. 23:9-14). Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection and the Jews have been celebrating it ever since receiving the Law at Mount Sinai. This paints a picture of every believer's resurrection: Jesus was the first resurrection, believer's taken up in the rapture are the second resurrection, and believer's taken during the Tribulation are the third resurrection. This is even pictured in the Law concerning the reaping of crops: First, you pick the early fruit to see if it is ripe; Second, you reap the main harvest; third comes the gleaning of the fruit left after the main harvest. Isn't it amazing how the Old Testament manages to picture every event of the New Testament?

Today, Sunday April 19th, we have come to the 8th chapter of Romans. In the first 7 chapters, Paul has established the need for holy living by pointing out the fact that no one can be justified by the Law, we all fall short and fail. We can only be justified by the unmerited favor of God. It is impossible to live without committing sin. We can only be justified by the grace of God, and this grace is a free gift from God. We have no right to brag of our goodness because there is none righteous, no not one. The 8th chapter introduces the **Holy Spirit** that dwells within every believer. It is a shame that our printed lesson is only a few verses in the middle of the chapter so I am going to add just a few verses.

ROMANS 8:1. *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.* What a wonderful and gracious verse! There will be no judgment for those who are in Christ because He died as a substitute for you and me, He made the atonement for all the sins of the world for all time and if you are a believer, He dwells in you, therefore you should yield to walk following His Spirit. Compare this opening verse with the last two verses of this chapter: ***For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

John 10:29-30 reads: *My Father, who has given them to Me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.* These verses prove two things; Once saved, always saved and Jesus is God. Once you have been converted, you become a member of God's family, He will never disown you. Secondly, Jesus is part of the Trinity that includes the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All three make up the Godhead and the Godhead cannot be divided. So, if you have the Holy Spirit, you also have the Father and the Son. Therefore, Paul teaches "Christ in you" "God in you" and the "Holy Spirit in you."

ROMANS 8:10-13. *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through the Spirit who dwells in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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.*

If you are a believer, you should consider your body as dead. In effect, you died with Christ and you will never die again because Jesus said *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.* (John 3:16) I like to substitute "never die" for "not perish" because a believer never dies. The true believer just departs from this tent. Your body is made of dust, all of our being continues to live, we just left that old dust bag behind and departed for a better place to live. We don't owe anything to the flesh, we owe more than we can pay to God who raised up Jesus Christ and gives us life everlasting, which is not a future thing, we have everlasting life from the moment that we put our trust in Christ.

ROMANS 8:13-17. *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out "Abba Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may be glorified together.*

If we yield ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, we become sons (children) of God. We are no longer slaves to sin, God takes us into His home, not as slaves, but as full family members entitled to all the benefits of being a member of the family. We become legally adopted by the Father and we become heirs, even joint heirs with Christ. All believers suffer while on earth and we should mourn for the sufferings of Christ. ([That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.](#) Philippians 3:10)

ROMANS 8:18-21. *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* When we are living a glorified life in the household of God amid all the host of heaven, then we will realize how minor our sufferings on earth were. Because of Adam's sin, the ground was cursed and that affected all created thing on the earth. This curse will remain until Jesus establishes His 1,000 year reign on earth. At that time, the curse will be removed, and things of nature will be exactly as they were in the Garden of Eden. Lions will eat grass and straw, snakes will not be poisonous, wild animals will not fear man, man will live hundreds of years.

ROMANS 8:22-23. *For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves, groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.* We can see some of the groanings of the earth in earthquakes, eruptions of volcanoes, storms, hurricanes and tornados. Believers anxiously look forward to being reunited with their loved ones who have gone on ahead to be with the Lord. Oh, what a wonderful day when we

shall be changed to be like Christ and see Him as He is, and we shall be like Him.

ROMANS 8:24-25. *For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.* Abraham could not see all the things God promised, but he believed God and hoped to see the fulfillment. He waited patiently. We cannot actually see ourselves being in heaven with Christ, but like Abraham, we wait with perseverance.

That ends the printed lesson, but there is so much more in the remainder of this chapter, I urge you to read prayerfully the rest of the chapter, which closes with the assurance that our salvation is secure in the hand of God.

Next Week: Saved, Romans 10:5-15.