

Sermon Study Guide

The Roman Road - Life in the Spirit

Overview

The book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul. It is a treasure of Christian doctrine and theology, the clearest and most systematic presentation of Christian doctrine in all the Scriptures. Paul had never been to Rome when he wrote the letter to the church located there, though he had clearly expressed his desire to travel there in the near future.

As we enter into God's grace and experience salvation through Jesus Christ, it does something to us. The scripture tells us we are made new, a new creation. We are given a new life. As John 3:8 says, 'we are born again.'

This new life is a life in the Spirit. Not 'a' spirit or some metaphysical life, but life the Holy Spirit; God. Life in the flesh lives in conflict with life in the Spirit and this is not God's plan for us. He makes us holy.

Scripture

Romans 7; Romans 8

Examination - The best way to use this section is to discuss with others in a Bible study

1. The law is holy but it is powerless to make us holy Romans 7:14-24
 - a. The law makes known to us what sin is and sin seizes this opportunity and produces in us a life in the flesh. This life results in death; it can even be said, it is death. Romans 7:7-8
 - b. The law is spiritual and holy while we are unspiritual and unholy. Romans 7:12,14
 - c. There is a law working in us that causes us to live, and in fact to be in conflict with God and good. Romans 7:14-24; 5:1, 10
 - d. What can make me holy? Jesus Romans 7:25
2. What does it mean to be holy? Romans 8
 - a. What the Law (Mosaic law) was powerless to do, God did by sending His Son, Jesus. Romans 8:3
 - b. And what was that? Romans 8:4
 - i. Condemnation of sin
 - ii. Power to live righteous
 - c. Life in the Spirit produces a new mind, new desires and new results. Romans 8:5-8; 12-13; 26-28
 - d. Life in the Spirit results in a new family Romans 8:14-17

Practical Application - discuss these items with others, perhaps in a bible study together

1. What are the three "laws" discussed in Romans 7 and 8? What are the differences in these terms and how they are applied? What are the similarities?
2. Consider the term 'life' in this section of scripture. There are two meanings for this term. What are they (hint: one has to do with the term death).
3. Look at Romans 8:28. People often take this to mean that because we are Christians God ultimately and eventually works out situations in our lives to produce good stuff for us. What does it really mean?