

# Romans 8:1-39

Sunday 12/28/2008

The key to learning any book of the Bible is learning the breakdown of that particular book. Obviously, we have talked about it many, many times. The Bible itself has its own breakdown that if you want to figure it out, you have to get it in the right breakdown or the right section. The Bible calls this rightly dividing the word of truth, and it is vitally important if you are ever going to figure it out.

We talked about how Romans itself has its own breakdown. I gave you that breakdown when we started the book of Romans. Many times, each chapter has breakdowns that the chapter itself falls into, which really helps you break down and understand how the chapters themselves lay out. I would be hard-pressed today to find another chapter that has more material in it than Romans chapter 8, at least from a practical point of view. There are only 39 verses in it, but my fear is that as I was looking at this when we started, when I started putting it together, I thought to myself, "My goodness, I could almost preach every verse." It is just loaded. It could all wind up being 39 sermons out of this chapter. There is so much material in it.

But I showed you how, as far as grasping it, and you should have it in your Bible by now if you are staying up week by week, the book of Romans in chapter 8 breaks down into four sections.

- Section 1, which is verses 1 through 14, deals with a great victory in our life and a great practical section.
- Section 2, which will run around verses 15 through 22, will deal with the first adoption that we find in the book of Romans.
- Remember, I told you that the theme of Romans chapter 8 is the two adoptions that take place in your life. One of them took place the day you got saved. The second one will take place when the rapture takes place and God redeems your body and changes it into His glorious, incorruptible body.
- That will be the third section, verses 23 through 32, which is your adoption of your body.
- So we have the first section, which deals with a great practical thing. The second section deals with your spiritual adoption. The third section deals with your physical adoption, the glorification of your body.
- Then section 4, verses 33 through 39, deals with the end result of being in Christ. It really focuses on the relationship with Christ.

I think that if you want to do anything at all to prepare yourself, kind of get yourself in a mindset for Wednesday night, New Year's Eve, I suggest that you read Romans 8:33-39. Just really let that speak to you this week because it really is the great passage that shows you what we have in Christ, the oneness that we have. It is some of the greatest material that you are ever going to find on showing you the great doctrine of eternal security.

I told you that before, that when you come up against somebody who believes that they can lose their salvation, you are basically dealing with someone who does not know very much about the Bible. You should see now and understand, as we have come through the great chapters in Romans, that the key to eternal security is not having your key verses that you battle somebody

with. The key to understanding the doctrine of eternal security is simply understanding how you got saved in the first place. Once you know what transpired with your body, your soul, and your spirit the day you got saved, you have to be an absolute idiot to think you could lose that. Of course, it is so true today that so many people are caught up in that.

Last week, I showed you section 1, and we looked at some of the greatest principles in a practical sense in all of the Bible. In fact, we talked about a successful Christian life, how everybody wants that. Romans 8:1-14 is your absolute guarantee in writing: if you do what the Word of God says, you will have success in your life, you will be fulfilled in your Christian life, and you will have everything that God wants you to have. They are built on some great concepts.

Also, in that great passage, we talked about the fact of condemnation for a Christian, that a Christian can be damned and condemned without ever going to hell, because we know now that there are two types of condemnation, two types of damnation. There is one of the soul, which an unsaved man and an unsaved woman experiences when they die without Christ. Then there is a condemnation or a damnation for believers of our flesh. When we walk after the flesh instead of after the things of the Spirit of God, it brings about an automatic law of sowing and reaping. We many times get into a scenario where our flesh goes through the condemnation of walking after the things of this world instead of walking after the things of God.

We got that great lesson also last week where we focused on the word "mind," the mind of the Spirit versus the mind of the flesh. Your mind is your will, which decides what you are going to do. Of course, the end results of what you decide to do bring consequences with it when we walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit. So that was a great section, and I think that that is, without a doubt, in my own personal life anyhow, one of the greatest concepts that you are ever going to get into and understand when it comes to putting the Bible together for a practical relationship.

## I. The Adoption of Our Soul

Today, we are going to look at the second section. We are going to find out in Romans 8:15-22, and we are going to deal with the adoption of our soul. I have already told you this, that there are two adoptions in the book of Romans. The theme of Romans chapter 8 in particular is the redemption of our body. But what God does is this, and God always does this when He begins to lay out and teach us the Bible: He gives us the whole context of what is really going to happen, but He is focusing on the redemption or the adoption of our body. But He includes in that the adoption of our soul, just some incredible material.

I want to begin reading here in Romans 8:15-18. Here again, we are probably not going to get past verse 15. Next week, probably won't get past verse 16. Next week, probably won't get past verse 17. It is going to be an incredible thing. There is so much in these passages, and we want to make sure we work our way through it. We are not in any kind of race to get through Romans. To go over this material without thoroughly laying it out would be a great injustice to the Word of God and to you, because it is so valuable to you.

Here is what he says in Romans 8:15. As I said, there is so much in here, and there is so much that we are going to have to just kind of wade through here. But there is some great material here. Let us look at verse 15.

Father, we thank and praise You for the Lord Jesus. We love You, Lord. We thank You for the time that we could take today to open up the Scriptures and to learn some great truths about You and what You have for us. Lord, help us to learn this great material. Help us to learn how not only to apply it to our own lives, but to apply it to the lives of people that we work with, people that we meet in our life that have the questions that we should have the answers to out of the Word of God. Lord, I pray now, Father, that You will open up our hearts and give us wisdom. Forgive us where we have failed You. Put us under the blood of Christ and use us, Lord, in a mighty way. We will thank You and praise You in Jesus' name, for His sake we ask it. Amen.

Now, I want you to turn over to the book of Galatians for a moment. I want you to go to Galatians chapter 5. I just read you Romans 8:15, which says:

*Romans 8:15*

*For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

Now look at Galatians 5:1. Here is what it says:

*Galatians 5:1*

*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

## II. Standing Versus State

That word there where it starts out and talks about "stand fast therefore." You have heard me talk to you many, many times, and you should have it laid out in your Bible, about two of the greatest doctrines that you will ever come across in the Bible. That is the doctrine of your standing and your state. They are two of the greatest doctrines from which the foundation of the Word of God and everything that you and I believe work off of. And yet, they are two of the most unknown doctrines. If you would ask the average pastor today, or the average Christian, to explain to you the doctrine of standing and the doctrine of state, they could not begin to do it. And yet, they stand in pulpits every week and they teach people the Bible, and yet they do not understand the basic, fundamental, foundational truths by which the Bible itself and your relationship with Christ is built on.

Your standing in Christ Jesus is the fact that the day you got saved, your soul was sealed unto the day of redemption, and you are sinlessly perfect as far as your soul is concerned in your relationship with God. That is your standing. We sing a song, "Standing on the Promises." That is what your standing is. You are saved, and your eternal security is based on the promises of the Word of God that you stand on. That is why when he talks about in Romans 8:15, and he says there that we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. Galatians 5:1 picks up and

says, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty of Christ." That is your standing. Your standing this morning, if you are saved, is the fact that you are in Christ. Your sins have been forgiven, washed away. God has imputed His righteousness to you, and you stand this morning as far as your soul adopted into God's family, and stand there this morning in sinless perfection before Almighty God as far as your soul is concerned.

Now, your state, that is something different. Your state is your relationship with Christ as far as your flesh is today. Your standing is fixed the day you got saved. Your state is a day-to-day thing. Your state in Christ Jesus is whatever state you are in, in your relationship with Christ. If you are walking after the Spirit, then your state is good. If you are walking after the flesh, then your state is not so good. Your state fluctuates with your personal relationship with God. Ah, but your standing never fluctuates. Your standing is sinless perfection.

That is the difference between the old nature and the new nature. Your new nature is rooted in the Word of God the day you got saved, and you are standing in Christ Jesus in the promise of the Word of God. Your old nature, we have looked at it in Romans chapter 5, Romans chapter 6, Romans chapter 7. The great battle that we have. As Paul himself said, "The things that I do not want to do, those are the things I do; the things I should not do, those are what I am always doing; the things that I am supposed to do, those are the things that I do not do." There is your state. There is your state. You are going to realize, or come to the realization, that when you got saved, your standing in Christ Jesus, you are now in the liberty that Christ has made us free, and we never have to be entangled again in that bondage.

### III. The Allegory of Hagar and Sarah (Historical Context)

Now, there are some great illustrations of this in the Bible. Since we are in the book of Galatians, I want you to turn back one chapter to Galatians chapter 4. I want to show you this bondage concept and how this thing lays out, because this bondage is the sin that before you were saved held you captive. Before you were saved, you were held in bondage by your flesh and your sin. There is absolutely nothing you can do to get out of whatever situation you are in before you are saved. You may be an alcoholic. You may have some particular problem that you struggle with in life. You know what? You will never overcome those things on your own. There is only one way you can get past those, and that is through a relationship with Christ, of taking your soul and setting it free, that you are no longer under bondage to the things of this world. That is what he is saying there in Romans 8:15. Do not go back into that bondage as far as your flesh. He says, "You have not received the spirit of bondage." You received the Spirit of God which sets you free. So why in the world do we as Christians who are saved live like the world? That is basically what he is saying.

Now, there is a great example in the Bible in the book of Galatians. In Galatians chapter 4, I want to begin reading here in verse 22.

*Galatians 4:22-31*

*For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.*

*But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise.*

*Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.*

*For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.*

*But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

*For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.*

*Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.*

*But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now.*

*Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.*

*So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.*

Now, this is a great passage for a number of reasons. Of course, if you know anything about your Bible at all, you know that historically and also doctrinally, what you are reading here is God's official position on what is going on in the Middle East. I do not know if you woke up to it this morning and turned the news on or not, or checked life on planet earth before you did anything else besides come to church, but it looks like it is all going down the tubes again over in the Middle East. Over there in the Gaza Strip, they are ready to go to war again and going to fight again, and that thing is going to be a continuous thing. But in Galatians chapter 4, you have God's official, historically now, you have God's official position on what is going on in the Middle East. This is how God views the situation over there. This is God's official opinion and statement on it, dealing with the Muslims and all of this going on.

Of course, we know now from this story, we kind of get a background of what we are dealing with, and God kind of takes you back and shows you how the thing goes. Now we know that Muslims came into existence from a guy by the name of Muhammad. Muhammad lived around 570 AD to about 632. It was Muhammad who came to the point where he gave birth to what we know as Islam today, from which the Muslims came from. Muhammad claimed in his, he claimed to have a vision with the angels, and all of these things, and he was told to him, and his claim is that he is in a direct line of ancestry from Abraham. Therefore, he set himself up as one of the prophets.

What we are having over in the Middle East right now is a battle for Jerusalem and for what we call the Holy Land. The truth of the matter is, we do not have a map up here right now, but the Jews only have a very small, almost a fingernail-size part of the land of which really belongs to them. This fight that is going on over there in the Gaza Strip, Gaza Strip belonged to them. They

gave up the Golan Heights here about a year ago. That belongs to them. Everything that they have got, the West Bank, all the way up. In fact, if you put it on a map and look at it, you would find that the land grant that was originally given to Abraham, which is what God still holds to as their land, and they are going to get it in the millennium, would run all the way from on the West side over there where Egypt is, all the way over to where what we know as Baghdad today. Then it would go up in a kind of a pyramid shape all the way up almost to Turkey, and everything in that land is what God gave to Abraham back in the book of Genesis. That land grant has never been rescinded.

When we look at the Middle East today and we look at what we know as Pakistan, what we know as Uzbekistan, what we know as Iraq and Iran, what we know as Saudi Arabia, and all those nations over there, I do not know how to tell you this, but that land that those nations are occupying belongs to the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel. In fact, you can go back in Ezekiel from Ezekiel chapter 40 through chapter 48, he will tell you geographically where every one of those things line out and who it belongs to. You can get Clarence Larkin's book back there in the back, his book on dispensational truth. Clarence Larkin has it laid out for you on the land grant and shows you where each tribe is, what portion of the land they are going to get during the Millennial reign of Christ. It is an incredible concept.

Israel has just got a toehold. They just got a small little piece of it, less than the size of the state of Texas. And yet, every nation around them is a Muslim nation. Every nation around them wants them out of there to the point where they are very vocal about nuking the Jews and it is to destroy the Jews off the face of the earth. Why? Because Jerusalem is important to the Muslims, or it is important to a Muslim, because of how