

Romans 8:10-11

Introduction: Last week we talked about that we can face death with confidence because just as Jesus is alive, so will we be when we die. This week we want to talk about that confidence a little more. The resurrection assures us that there is eternal life. The Bible in Romans 8 describes Jesus as the “firstborn among many brethren.” That means that Jesus is the first person to have lived, died, and lived again never to die again. So not only does the Bible in other places teach about life after death, but we see it occur in the life of Christ.

Background of the Text:

Paul just wrote about the struggle of the Christian life in chapter seven of Romans in verses 7-25. He said things such as “the things I should do I don’t do, and the things I shouldn’t do are the things that I do.” In verse 24 he asks a question, “who can deliver me from this?” He then answers his own question in verse 25 when he says, “I thank God through Jesus Christ.” As Paul opens chapter 8 of Romans he says because of Christ those who have a relationship with Him are no longer under condemnation. This means that past, present, and even future sins are washed white by the blood of Jesus Christ. In Romans 8:2-8 Paul describes how we should live since we are no longer condemned by God. He says that we shouldn’t walk around trying to please our sinful desires, but rather we are to live to please God. In verse 9 of Romans 8 Paul gives an identifying mark of a Christian when he says they have the Holy Spirit in them. If the Holy Spirit isn’t in you, then you don’t belong to God. Although I won’t spend time on it this morning, there are at least 10 ways the Bible speaks of to know if we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us or not (if you want to know what they are you can check out the blog on our website).

Breakdown of the Text:

V. 10: As we come to our text Paul is now talking to those who have the Holy Spirit living inside of them specifically. We know this because he says “if Christ be in you.” Notice the phrase “the body is dead because of sin.” This phrase has two meanings that are both correct. The first one is that our body is still under the

effects of the curse. The curse was given in Genesis 3:16-19 in which God said that women would have pain in childbirth, men would have to work hard to get crops from the land, and all humans would die. This is all because of man's disobedience to God. On quick side note, I do believe we will see Adam and Eve in heaven when we get there because of what God did for them in Genesis 3. But just because they or we are forgiven doesn't mean there aren't consequences for our actions, and the curse pronounced by God was a consequence even though Adam and Eve were forgiven by God later in the chapter. Therefore just realize that every decision we make has consequences and make sure you are willing to bear those consequences before you do something. The other means is that our body is still prone to our sinful desires. Again going back to Romans 7 there is no doubt that Paul is a saved man, but he says in verse 23, "But I see another law in my members (that is his body) warring against the law of my mind." Paul wanted to be obedient to Christ, but there was a war going on inside of him between his sin nature that wanted to please himself, and his new nature given to him by God when he became a Christian. It is important to know that the same war Paul was fighting is the war you and I fight every day. There is a war for our allegiance. Our soul already belongs to God as a Christian, but we must choose each day who we will live to serve, ourselves or God. But notice the end of verse 10 in Romans 8, "but the Spirit is life because of righteousness." That means that the Holy Spirit has given us eternal life. Notice it says because of righteousness. Where does this righteousness come from? If we compare Romans 3, 7, 8 we see the difference isn't in what we do or try to do that gives us righteousness. We have a right standing with God because Christ is in us. Because we have a relationship with Christ we have a right standing with God, and as a result of our right standing with God the Holy Spirit gives us eternal life.

V. 11: Not only does the Holy Spirit give us eternal life, but He is also going to raise us up from the dead. How do we know that this is true? Look at what it says in the verse, "He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken (make alive) your mortal bodies by His Spirit which dwelleth in you." Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we are confident that we will be raised from the dead to live for all eternity with God. Paul says it this way in Romans 6:5, "For if we have

been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection.” Paul repeated much of the same in 1 Corinthians 6:14 and 2 Corinthians 4:13-14. Why is all of this important?

The Resurrection of Christ Gives Us:

- ✠ **Hope in life after death:** The fact that God raised Jesus from the dead is a guarantee that the grave will not be our ultimate end. Yes we will face hard times. Yes many of our loved ones will pass away. Yes unless Jesus returns we will pass away as well. But our hope is not found in escaping death. Our hope is found in facing death. Only when we die can we gain eternal life that was promised by God and secured by Christ’s resurrection. John 14:1-3 says, “Let not your heart be troubled, believe in God; believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go prepare a place for you I will come again to receive you unto Myself; that where I am, you may be also.” If there was no resurrection of the dead, if there is no such thing as eternal life then why would Jesus promise build a place for us in heaven and come and receive us to Himself?
- ✠ **Hope in this life:** While most of us think of eternal life as a future thing, and it is, we must realize that it is also a now thing as well. Look at verse 10 again, “the Spirit is life.” That means the Holy Spirit has already given us eternal life. That is why Paul says that our citizenship is not here on earth, but rather in heaven. Jesus said in John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” Christians should be in large part be the happiest group in the world. We have peace with God, the peace of God, love and joy unspeakable. If you’ve read the end of the book you know that we win! It is a win that is guaranteed. I’m not saying that we don’t have headaches and heartaches here on earth, but difficult times here will only make the wonderful times in heaven that much more enjoyable. Paul said, “For I consider the afflictions here on earth as nothing compared to the glory that awaits me.” Only a person who have placed their faith in the risen Jesus Christ can say that death is a blessing. What do you say about death this morning?