

LIVING IN THE FUTURE
ROMANS 8

INTRODUCTION:

1. Do you believe that you have a home in heaven? With the life you live right now, are you confident that you are saved?
2. Romans 8 focuses our attention on the Holy Spirit and teaches us that we can have confidence in our eternal future.

I. DECLARATION

- A. **ROMANS 8.1:** *“There is therefore now no condemnation”*
 1. *“There is”* A statement of assurance.
 2. *“There is now”* Not somewhere in the future.
 3. *“No condemnation”* Right now, there is salvation.
- B. This is a declaration of exclusivity.
 1. **ROMANS 8.1:** *“to those who are in Christ Jesus.”* Only those in Christ can say they are saved. (Gal. 3.26,27)
 2. **ROMANS 8.1:** *“who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”* What does that mean?

II. EXPLANATION

- A. The instruction of the Holy Spirit.
 1. **ROMANS 8.2:** *“For the law of the Spirit”*
 2. The New Testament contains laws that must be obeyed if we want a home in heaven. (Gal. 6.2; James 1.25)
 3. **ROMANS 8.3,4:** *“who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”* Walk according to the law.
- B. The influence of the Holy Spirit.
 1. **ROMANS 8.5:** *“those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”* It begins with a mindset.
 2. How do we know the things of Spirit? We do not guess but read what the Spirit revealed. (Isa. 55.8,9)
 3. When we allow the Holy Spirit to influence our decisions, the result is *“life and peace”* (Rom. 8.6).
- C. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 1. **ROMANS 8.9-11:** *“His Spirit who dwells in you.”*
 2. The Holy Spirit dwells in you through your keeping His instructions. (v. 10; John 14.7-10)
- D. The intercession of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8.26,27)

CONCLUSION: The assurance of our future rests on the foundation of the love of God and Christ. (Rom. 8.31-39)

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

October 10, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

UNRESOLVED CONFLICT IS A FAILURE

Conflict among brethren is an inevitability. There are always going to be brethren who have different opinions, different preferences, and different temperaments which will lead to conflict. Knowing this, Jesus offers conflict resolution which involves communication, compassion, and understanding (Matt. 5.23,24; 18.15-17). But how does God view conflict among brethren that is unresolved?

In 1 Corinthians 6, the Holy Spirit addresses brethren who are in conflict. Things have become so escalated that instead of resolving it among themselves, they *“go to law before the unrighteous”* (1 Cor. 6.1). They were taking each other to court. The inspired writer characterizes this unresolved conflict by writing, *“it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another”* (1 Cor. 6.6). It wasn't just a failure. It was an utter failure. What was the utter failure? They could not resolve the conflict among themselves and had to instead go before a secular court.

The Bible is our guidebook in all things including how to deal with brethren who have mistreated us or wronged us in some way. The Bible teaches us about compassion, forgiveness, and even just letting things go (Matt. 5.44,45; Eph. 4.31,32; 1 Cor. 6.7). If there is a brother or sister with whom you have conflict, don't let it become an utter failure. Resolve to resolve in the spirit of Christ.

FAITH THAT OVERCOMES

MARK 9:19

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our text flows from the transfiguration, an account emphasizing the majesty of Christ (2 Pet. 1.16-18)
2. After leaving the mountain, Jesus is immediately confronted with tragedy. (cf. Ps. 90.10).
3. What do you do when you are confronted with tragedy and hardship? Respond with faith! [Read Mark 9.14-17]

I. HOW DID JESUS RESPOND TO TRAGEDY?

- A. Jesus responded with faith.
 1. Jesus displayed His faith in His conversation with Moses and Elijah. (Mark 9.4; 8.31).
 2. Jesus understood that His purpose was to provide salvation through His death. (Heb. 12.2)
 3. Jesus displayed His faith in the command He issued to His disciples. (Mark 9.9)
- B. Jesus responded with feelings.
 1. The son was possessed by a demon causes a very serious and dangerous condition. (Mark 9.18)
 2. Jesus expresses feelings of frustration with the lack of faith displayed. (Mark 9.19; cf. Matt. 17.17)
 3. Jesus expresses feelings of compassion. (Mark 9.20-22)

II. DO YOU HAVE A FAITH THAT OVERCOMES?

- A. Our text emphasizes the importance of having faith.
 1. **MARK 9.19:** *“O faithless generation”*
 2. **MARK 9.22:** *“But if You can do anything”*
 3. **MARK 9.23:** *“if you can believe.”*
 4. **MARK 9.24:** *“I believe; help my unbelief”*
- B. Two observations about a faith that overcomes.
 1. We are to be people who live by faith. A lifestyle of faith will help when confronted with tragedy. (Rom. 1.17)
 2. We are to be people who pray by faith. Do you believe that God has your best interest at heart? (James 1.5,6)

CONCLUSION: Tragedy is part of life, and everyone must deal with it. But Christians can get through it because of their faith.

WHY ARE YOU FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY?

The assembling of ourselves together is a wonderful blessing that will fortify our faith, strengthen the bond between us, and give us the much needed encouragement to be steadfast through the rest of the week (Heb. 10.23,24). But it is also a responsibility that every Christian is obligated to fulfill (Heb. 10.25). Unfortunately, this pandemic has seemed to change the way we see our responsibilities, or at least view them as being less imperative.

There are legitimate reasons for not attending the worship of the church. Sometimes we might be unable to attend because of sickness. And in our current crisis, we might find ourselves needing to quarantine to protect ourselves and our brethren. Sometimes we might be unable to attend because of the sickness of others. Perhaps there is someone in your life who needs constant care, and you need to stay home with them. Obligations to your employer might also prevent you from attending one of the scheduled church services.

The only legitimate reason for not being in attendance relates to those things that are beyond your control. However, forsaking the assembly as a matter of convenience is never acceptable. Do you skip worship because you want to sleep in on Sunday morning? Do you miss an evening service because you would rather watch your favorite team play? Have you decided that you are only obligated to attend one service?

It is important to remember that the context of Hebrews 10 does not end with verse 25. After we are told not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together, the very next verse says, *“for if we sin willfully...”* (Heb. 10.26). Choosing to forsake the assembly is a willful sin! And that leads to verse 27 which warns us that there is a *“certain fearful expectation of judgment.”* If I sin willfully by forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, then I have eternal condemnation in my future.

The worship of the church is so important in both giving glory and praise to God as well as giving and receiving encouragement from those of like precious faith. But each one is responsible for making their own decisions...and will answer for those decisions (Phil. 2.12). Attendance itself is not going to save or condemn anyone. But how well you attend reflects an attitude of what is important to you (Matt. 6.33). Do you see the worship of the church as a wonderful blessing or a grudging obligation? Your eternal home may depend on how you answer.