

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39

God's holiness – man's sinfulness – 1:18-3:20

Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21

Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39

- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Romans is the most systematic presentation of the gospel that we have in the Bible. Paul begins by showing that humanity has a universal sin problem. He then shows that God has provided a Savior in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ Who must be received by faith. When we receive Christ as Lord and Savior by faith we are immediately and forever saved from the penalty of sin.

Slide # 2

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

But although we have been saved from the penalty of sin, as believers we still struggle with indwelling sin and that is very frustrating. This is what Romans 6-8 deals with – how to have victory over indwelling sin – the old sin nature that still resides within us.

Slide # 3

Romans 6 – Our **POSITION** in Christ

Romans 7 – Our ongoing **STRUGGLE** with sin

Romans 8 – **VICTORY** through the Holy Spirit

Paul in Romans 8 is making a contrast between the lost who are dominated by the flesh as a way of life and the saved who are dominated by the Spirit.

Slide # 4

those who live according to the flesh... v. 5

those who are in the flesh....v. 8

Contrast....

those who live according to the Spirit...v. 5

But you...in the Spirit...v. 9

The defining reality for the unbeliever is the flesh; the defining reality for the believer is the Spirit. Now, believers still have the flesh but it no longer defines us. The Spirit is now the dominating reality in our lives as Christians even though we still struggle with sin.

In the context of our study in Romans Paul has just emphasized that all true believers have the Spirit (v. 9). However, we still live in unredeemed bodies. But we have the promise that one day the Spirit will also give life to our mortal bodies, at which time our redemption will be complete.

Right now, we are alive in our spirit, but the body still has the sentence of death in it and it can still be a vehicle for sin. But in glorification the body will be fully and finally delivered from the very presence of sin – never to sin again.

Romans 8:12–17 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

In view of the Spirit's new role in our lives (as seen in the previous verses) we are not debtors to the flesh to live according to its dictates.

The word “**debtors**” implies an obligation (Rom. 1:14). We now owe nothing to the flesh. It has no say over us. Its power has been broken. We are now under new management (the Holy Spirit) and our obligation is now to this new management (cf. 1 Pet. 4:2-3).

Now we are debtors to the Spirit to live according to the Spirit. This is now our Christian duty and obligation.

Your body is a house! As a Christian, in the body of your house live three realities. 1) There is the new you (your new nature) who you will be for all eternity; 2) there is the Holy Spirit Who has now come to live inside you; and 3) there is the flesh (the old sin nature). Now which of these 3 realities housed in you do you suppose is the greatest? God is always the greatest! The Holy Spirit is the greatest reality living in you and believe me He makes His presence known.

Since He has moved into your house the Holy Spirit is now the dominating reality. The impulse of the Spirit affects your every move, your every thought. Your entire life is now colored by the continual influence of the Spirit in the most intimate of ways. Indeed, He can be quenched or grieved, but even in this His presence is all pervasive. The Spirit's influence is greater than that of the flesh – although we continue to battle the flesh.

Unbelievers live a life that is completely dominated by the flesh, believers now live a life that is continually influenced by the Spirit and interrupted by the flesh. Paul draws this contrast in verse 13.

13 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.

The word “*live*” is in the present tense denoting a habitual lifestyle that is totally dominated by the sinful impulse of the sin nature. This is their nature and they live accordingly. This defines the lost who don't have the Spirit.

And the end result is death – that is eternal death – eternal separation from God in the lake of fire. Death here is not referring to physical death because even those who live by the Spirit die physically. The contrast here is between eternal death and eternal life.

“Paul is saying that if you live like a non-Christian, dominated by your sinful nature rather than living according to the Holy Spirit, you will perish like a non-Christian—because you are a non-Christian.”

- James Montgomery Boice

The literal Greek is, “*you are about to die.*” While the expression is equivalent to a future tense, it implies that there is still time to repent and avert the horrific consequence. – **Steven Cole**

In contrast, “***if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.***” Note there are only two categories – those who live according to the flesh and those who by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body.

“By the Spirit” means to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a walk of faith – moment by moment depending on the Spirit to help us. You can’t do this within your own strength (see Romans 7). Jesus taught us to pray, “deliver us from evil” (Mt. 6:13); Hebrew 4:16 exhorts to come boldly to the throne of grace for help when struggling with sin. We need God’s help and in the person of the Spirit we have it!

But note the balance here once again between God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. Paul says to do this **“by the Spirit”** but at the same time he says, **“you put to death the deeds of the body”**. **You do it** and yet at the same time **“by the Spirit”**. As we find so often, in sanctification, divine aid and human responsibility work together.

Slide # 5

Philippians 2:12–13 (NKJV)

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation** with fear and trembling;

13 for **it is God who works** in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Only God can give us the power and yet we are responsible to act on it.

Paul is describing what is indicative of all true believers. All true believers by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body, not absolutely, not as consistently as we should, but it is indicative of all true believers because all believers are led and influenced by the Spirit to this end. This is indicative of all those who truly have eternal life.

For the believer there are two death aspects related to the issue of sin. There is a positional aspect and an experiential aspect.

Slide # 6

Galatians 5:24 (NKJV)

24 And those who are Christ’s **have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

What the believer has done is appropriate the truth of Christ’s crucifixion. This relates to the response of repentance in saving faith that results in the execution of the flesh. In saving faith, we are crucified with Christ – that is we identify with His crucifixion which has forever altered our relationship with the flesh. Note Gal. 5:24 does not say to do this, but that it has already happened. It is a POSITIONAL reality (cf. Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6).

However, EXPERIENTIALLY the believer needs to put to death the deeds of the body – the vehicle through which the flesh functions. No one can destroy the flesh (the sin nature) in this life – it is with us to the end. But we can destroy the deeds of the flesh. With the Spirit's help we can KILL sinful actions by not allowing them to take place. We must nip them in the bud and kill them before they ever are allowed to be lived out. In effect, we say “no” to the flesh and thus kill the sinful deeds of the body.

Slide # 7

Colossians 3:5 (NKJV)

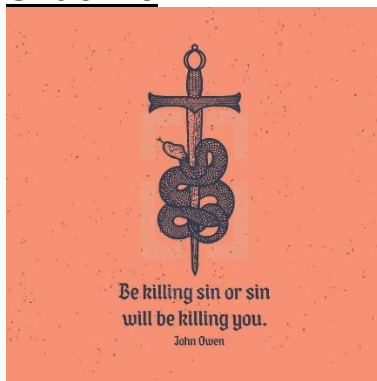
5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

This putting to death the deeds of the body in in the present tense in Romans 8:13 meaning this is an ongoing continual activity (cf. Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:22-5:14). It's not like you do this once and never have to do it again. The battle with sin is continual. We can never let our guard down. John Owen said, ***“When sin lets us alone we may leave sin alone.”*** But that won't happen until glory. It's a battle to the pearly gates!

The solicitations of the flesh are continual, hence the need to continually be putting to death the deeds of the body. And we need to be ruthless in doing so! “Put to death” is graphic and violent! It requires DRASTIC action!

This putting to death the sinful deeds of the body/flesh is often called mortification which is the idea of subduing the flesh.

Slide # 8



The illustration is often used of the Amalekites. They were the perennial flesh enemies of the Jews. They attacked Israel shortly after the Exodus and ambushed them from behind killing the most vulnerable (Deut. 25:18). God then swore to blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven

(Exodus 17:14). Many years later God called on king Saul of Israel to wipe them out. But in disobedience he spared the king of the Amalekites named Agag and the best of the animals (cf. 1 Sam. 15). That was so serious that it cost Saul the kingdom.

And Samuel upon confronting Saul then called for Agag and Agag said, ***“Surely the bitterness of death is past”*** (1 Sam. 15:29). But when he came before Samuel the Word says, ***“And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.”*** (1 Sam. 15:33).

This serves as an apt illustration of how we should deal with sin in our lives. Sin is already utterly defeated, but the sinful deeds of the flesh must be hacked to pieces without mercy or it will revive and attack us from the rear. We cannot take it easy on sin or compromise with it or it will devour us.

I do not know of a single scripture, and I speak advisedly – which tells me to take my sin, the particular thing that gets me down, to God in prayer and ask Him to deliver me from it and then to trust in faith that He will. Now the teaching is also often put like this: you must say to a man who is constantly defeated by a particular sin, “I think your only hope is to take it to Christ and Christ will take it from you.” But what does Scripture say in Ephesians 4:28 to the man who finds himself constantly guilty of stealing, to a man who sees somethings he likes and takes it? What am I to tell such a man? Am I to say, “Take that sin to Christ and ask Him to deliver you?” No, what the apostle Paul tells him is this: “Let him that stole steal no more.” Just that. Stop doing it! And if it is fornication or adultery or lustful thoughts, again: Stop doing it, says Paul. He does not say, “Go and pray to Christ to deliver you.” No. You stop doing that, he says as becomes children of God.

– ***Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones***

Or as Paul says, by the Spirit put it to death. In other words, STOP IT! By the Spirit we can STOP IT!

Be wary of views of repentance that are overly complicated. Or vague or squishy. Or that need a seminary graduate to explain them. In the Bible, repenting is just ceasing to do the bad thing you have been doing, and starting to do the right thing. To be sure, repentance includes an attendant change of mind, but even tying your shoes requires the decision to tie your shoes.

Tax collectors in John the Baptist’s day are taking more money than they are authorized to. Soldiers are extorting. When they ask the prophet what they should do, he simply tells them to stop it.

– ***Andree Seu Peterson***

The way putting to death the deeds of the body is applied goes back to Romans 6. We KNOW our position in Christ (dead to sin – alive to God); we RECKON (or count it to be so); and then we PRESENT ourselves to God for His service depending on the Spirit's help (cf. Rom. 6:3, 6, 9, 11, 13). This is really descriptive of the walk of faith – depending on the Lord each step of the way and then walking in obedience.

Slide # 9

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

In the end there are only two ways to live with two diverse outcomes. Those who live according to the flesh as a way of life end in eternal death; those who live according to the Spirit are defined as putting to death the deeds of the body as a way of life, and their end is eternal life.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Note that the thought of verse 13b continues on into verse 14. Those who are led by the Spirit are those who put to death the deeds of the body which is indicative of those who are truly God's sons. This is the work of the Spirit in their lives.

We don't just come to desire holy living on our own. This is the work of the Spirit. A hatred for sin and putting to death of the deeds of the body shows the work of the Spirit in a person's life. And as we see in Hebrews 12 God is at work in all of His children's lives to build holiness into them. There is no exception.

The reality of the Spirit in the believer's life has a pronounced effect on how they live. As Warren Wiersbe says, ***"It's not that we are sinless, but we do sin less."***

The Spirit leads in our lives so as to root out sin. He convicts us. He is grieved when we do wrong (Eph. 4:30). And if we persist in rebellion there is discipline (Heb. 12). The Spirit is ever leading us to kill sin in our lives – to stamp it out. The Spirit's first name is HOLY and living inside us He is actively the Holy agent always promoting and leading us in the way of holiness.

In verse 9 we saw that all true believers have the Spirit, here in verse 14 we see that all true believers are led by the Spirit. And where you have one -you have the other! This is not dealing with vocation or some specific function the Lord wants you to do; this is dealing with holy living – this is dealing with character. The Spirit takes the leading role in leading us into holiness. He is our resident holiness leader! And He is always on the job!

The verb “**led**” here is in the present tense showing that the Spirit is continually active in leading us in this way. He is ever at work in our lives.

He is either leading us down the right path, or if we get off track, He is leading us back to it. He is either controlling us or convicting us. We are either filled with Him (that is controlled by Him) or grieving Him. As those “in the Spirit” we are in the realm of the Spirit and we can never get out of that realm. The Spirit’s influence and presence is all pervasive. As a believer you can never get away from Him. His impact is unavoidable!

This being led by the Spirit in killing sin is a mark of all those who are truly sons of God. If a person can sin without being miserable then you can be sure they are not saved because the Spirit is always grieved in our sin.

David is often referred to as an example of how a believer can fall into great sin. That is true, but note that when he did he was totally miserable until he got right.

Slide # 10

Psalm 32:3–4 (NKJV)

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. Selah

This being led by the Spirit has a direct parallel in Titus 2:12....

Slide # 11

Titus 2:11–12 (NKJV)

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,

12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age,

This grace that teaches us has the ultimate teacher of the Holy Spirit behind it. He is the Spirit of truth. He is the anointing by which we “know all things” as seen in 1 John 2:20. He is anointing that “teaches you concerning all things” as seen in 1 John 2:27.

Not only do we as believers have the Spirit (v. 9); not only does he lead us into holiness (v. 13-14); but we are also the recipients of His special endearing ministry that brings us into the closest intimacy and privilege with God imaginable as seen in verses 15-17.

15 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.”

Unbelievers are all their lifetime through the fear of death subject to bondage (Heb. 2:15). The OT Jews ever lived in fear of breaking the law (which they continually did) and the resulting consequences (cf. Heb. 12:18-24).

But our relationship with Christ does not come with this type of bondage. We are now dead to sin (Rom. 6:11, 13) and dead to the law (Rom. 7:4). No longer are we in bondage to either one. Christ has freed us from sin and from the bondage of the law.

We are no longer in a binding relationship with the law that we couldn’t keep; but instead, we are now under a freeing relationship with the Lord through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (cf. 2 Cor. 3:17-18).

We don’t have a craven fear relationship with the Lord – and if we do we are totally misguided. Instead, we have now receive “the Spirit of adoption”. And in this Spirit of adoption, “perfect love casts out fear” (1 Jn. 4:18). “God has not given us a spirit of fear” (2 Tim. 1:7).

The Bible describes the believer as being born of God (Jn. 1:12-13; 3:1-8). And it also describes us as being adopted into God’s family (cf. Rom. 8:15, 23; Gal. 4:5; Eph. 1:5). Both the believer’s status of being born of God and adopted as God’s son are positional realities that are true of all believers.

Just like justification, so also adoption is a legal status. Whereas justified means “to be declared righteous”, adoption is the idea of being granted the full rights and privileges of sonship in a family as an adult son.

We come into God's family by birth. But the instant we are born into the family, God adopts us and gives us the position of an adult son.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

Christ is God's Son inherently by nature, we as God's children become His sons by adoption. And then in God's sharing His Spirit with us we also come to share in His very nature (cf. 1 Jn. 3:9).

Most commentators believe "***the Spirit of adoption***" here in Romans 8:15 is a way of referring to the Holy Spirit who has now placed us into the special status of being sons of God.

The reasons for thinking "the Spirit of adoption" is a way of describing the Holy Spirit are twofold. Number one is that the Spirit is prominent in the whole surrounding context. He is the main subject in view. And secondly, the parallel in Galatians 4:6 which uses similar language clearly has the Holy Spirit in view.

Slide # 12

Galatians 4:6 (NKJV)

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

It is the Holy Spirit that brings us into this relationship with God as the adopted sons of God.

God didn't bring us in as slaves but as sons (cf. Gal. 4:5, 7; Eph. 1:5).

Yes, the NT in various places sees believers as slaves of Christ who have been bought with the blood of Jesus. In this very book of Romans Paul started out the letter by calling himself a slave of Jesus Christ in verse 1. In Romans 6:18 Paul says we are slaves of righteousness and in 6:22 that we are slaves of God.

But the point is this is not a servile slavery. Being in union with Christ is actually a spiritually freeing reality. Yes, we now belong to Christ and He is our Lord, but on the other side of the coin is that we are also now exalted to the status of sonship. We have been brought in not merely as lowly slaves, but as distinguished sons of great honor and privilege.

The Spirit has brought us into the special status of sonship. 1 Cor. 6:17 indicates that our spirit is now joined with the Lord's Spirit and in that intimate union it is by the Spirit that we cry out "**Abba Father**" to God the Father.

Abba is an Aramaic word and **Father** is the literal translation of the Greek word for father.

This represents a very deep and personal ministry that goes to the very core of a person's being. Abba reflects a very deep and tender connection that was often used by little children to refer to their father. It is sometimes translated as "papa" or "daddy." Very literally the phrase could be translated as "Papa Father".

Jesus used this very tender terminology in the garden of Gethsemane when He was under tremendous duress.

Slide # 13

Mark 14:36 (NKJV)

36 And He said, "**Abba, Father**, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

This is the language of deep child-like trust and dependance.

Several years ago I visited Israel. Late one afternoon we stopped for the evening at a youth hostel in Tiberius, on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. I was standing watching some small Jewish children playing. Three or four of them had formed a group and were pointing at a small boy about two years old who was standing by himself. When the boy came to the conclusion that they were going to get him, he took off running as fast as his legs would take him, screaming, "Abba! Abba! Abba! He wanted his daddy, and he wanted him right now!"

– **Alan Johnson**

That is a great picture of "Abba Father". As believers we look to our all powerful and loving Father for all that we need. It is deep. It is personal! It is of the Spirit!

This is an expression from the deepest core of our being that intimately recognizes God as our precious Father. And especially in times when we are hurting deeply, we come to Him as our loving Father in this way. What a great ministry of the Spirit this is!

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Note that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person from our spirit as clearly brought out in this verse.

The intimate ministry of the Spirit involves not only our calling on God, but also His ministry of assurance to our spirit that we are a child of God. The sense here is better the Spirit ministers to instead of with our spirit. The Spirit ministers the truth that we are God's children to our spirit.

The word "children" (Gk. tekna) literally means "**born ones**" (cf. Jn. 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:1-2). We are sons by adoption but "born ones" by new birth.

The ministry of the Spirit by its very nature is somewhat subjective. This ministry of Spirit's personal witness to us is brought out various times in the NT (cf. 1 Jn. 4:13).

We see it in Hebrews 10:15 where the writer says the Holy Spirit witnesses to us and then quotes from the OT Scriptures (cf. Jer. 31:33). This indicates that a KEY way the Spirit bears witness to us is through the Word. He applies assurance to our hearts through the Word of God.

Again, the Spirit is repeatedly called, "the Spirit of truth" (Jn. 14:17; 15:26; 16:13). Jesus said He would dwell in us (Jn. 14:17) – which He does. Jesus called Him the Helper (Jn. 15:26) – as he helps us with the truth. And as the Spirit of truth He would guide into all truth (Jn. 16:13). He specializes in TRUTH and this is certainly true when it comes to His ministry of assurance in our hearts!

The Spirit convicts the world of sin showing them they are sinners (cf. Jn. 16:8-11), but once we are saved He now convinces us that we are saints. He both convicts and convinces using the Word of God.

If you lack assurance – study the Word. The Holy Spirit is faithful to reveal and apply God's truth to your heart in a very personal way. Sometimes He does this in mysterious ways.

On one occasion many years ago in California I was going through the most difficult time of my then 14 years of ministry. An associate was spreading half-truths (or, half-lies) about me, causing a lot of problems in the ministry there. Many were criticizing my preaching.

I was very discouraged. One night as I was about to get into bed, out of nowhere, the reference, [Acts 18:9-10](#) popped into my head. I had not been reading in Acts recently. There was no human explanation for why that reference came to mind.

I grabbed a Bible that was on the nightstand and opened to [Acts 18](#) and read how Paul was afraid during his ministry in Corinth. The Lord appeared to him in a vision and said, *“Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city.”* It was the Lord’s word to me, to go on preaching the truth and not be concerned about my critics. – **Steven Cole**

The Holy Spirit at different times has ministered encouragement and strength to me in very challenging times through the Word. Oftentimes in my daily reading, sometimes hearing a sermon, or maybe a song on the radio. The living God is real and He is living inside us. His ministry of assurance and affirmation is real!

It is common for believers to question themselves and many often lack assurance. It’s part of the battle. But the gentle assuring ministry of the Spirit does not go away.

Slide # 14

1 John 3:20 (NKJV)

20 For if our heart condemns us, **God is greater than our heart**, and knows all things.

Another text that specifically mentions the subjective ministry of the Spirit to our hearts is found in 1 Jn. 5:10.

Slide # 15

1 John 5:10 (NKJV)

10 He who **believes** in the Son of God **has the witness in himself**; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

But I want you to note the surrounding context and WHAT the Spirit uses to affirm the truth to our hearts.

Slide # 16

1 John 5:9–11 (NKJV)

9 If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which He has testified of His Son.

10 He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of His Son.

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

This witness in ourselves is none other than the Holy Spirit Himself Who bears witness to the truth of the Word affirming it to our hearts.

Praise the Lord for the intangible but very vibrant and real ministry of the Holy Spirit working not only to bring us to the knowledge of the truth; but then once converted working assurance in our hearts through the Word of truth. And then beyond that to work out the fruit of the Spirit in our lives as further evidence of true conversion.

Having introduced us to the truth that the Spirit's ministry involves bringing us into the status of sonship and then assuring us of that reality, Paul now builds on what it means to be children of God.

17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

An heir is one who has right to the inheritance. The rightful heirs are children. As God's children we are His heirs. We now as heirs share in the things of God. What doesn't belong to God? It's all His! And now as His children we share in all this.

Slide # 17**Romans 8:32 (NKJV)**

32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Revelation 21:7 (NKJV)

7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

There is NOTHING that God will not share with us! The sky's the limit – the universe is the limit – the new heavens and the new earth are the limit – eternity is the limit – meaning there is no limit!

Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Not only are we as God's children His heirs – we are also joint heirs with Christ. This means we will share with Christ in all that is His. What belongs to Christ?

Slide # 18

Psalm 2:8 (NKJV)

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Slide # 19

Hebrews 1:2 (NKJV)

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Can you even begin to imagine sitting on the throne with Christ and feeling the power of ruling over the entire world? We can't even begin to fathom what God has in store for His children!

And then Paul says, "if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." "***If indeed***" assumes that it is true. It is assumed that if you truly know Christ and belong to Him that you will suffer because of it.

The Greek construction here does not set forth a condition but states a fact. – ***NIV Study Bible***

Christ said, “If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.” (Jn. 15:20). Paul told the Philippians, “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake” (Phil. 1:29).

It is to be expected that the world will hate us if we are truly identified with Christ. This takes various forms but it is always in play. Expect it! Paul said, “all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). Peter said Christ suffered for us leaving us an example that we should follow His steps (1 Pet. 2:21).

But just as sure as we can expect to suffer for our identification with Christ - it is just as sure that we will also be glorified together. We share in Christ's suffering and we will also share in His glory. They go together!

Slide # 20

Life in the Spirit...

We are debtors to the Spirit – v. 12

By the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the body – v. 13

We are led by the Spirit – v. 14

By the Spirit we are adopted as sons and cry out Abba Father – v. 15

The Spirit bears witness with our Spirit that we are children of God v. 16

The Spirit is linked with our absolute solidarity with Christ in both His suffering and His glory – v. 17

The KEY idea throughout our whole text today is the idea of SOLIDARITY with God by way of the Spirit. It is by the Spirit that we share intimately and thoroughly in the things of God.

This “Spirit Relationship” we now have with the Lord has forever changed everything! No way could a true Christian ever live life in the flesh as does an unbeliever. That would be the equivalent of not having the Spirit.

We are now so joined to God by the Spirit as to be married to Him. There is perhaps no greater illustration of our intimate union to God than the marriage relationship. And of course it is God's illustration.

When two people are married they literally become one flesh. They are physically joined together.

But they share in oneness the whole of life. As the Bible says, “heirs together of the grace of life” (1 Pet. 3:7). When Janie’s parents died she received an inheritance – but guess what I too got in on this. When my parents died, I received an inheritance – but guess what – Janie got in on this too. What’s mine is hers and what’s hers is mine.

And this is now how is with us and God! Our life is so bound up in the Spirit that we now share fully in all that is God’s. We are sons, children, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Slide # 21

John 17:22–24 (NKJV)

22 And **the glory** which You gave Me **I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 **I in them**, and **You in Me**; that **they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may **be with Me** where I am, that they **may behold My glory** which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

As believers our solidarity with God through the Spirit is deep and abiding! As Paul said in 1 Cor. 3:21-22 “all things are yours...the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours.”

In the 19th century there was a man named Billy Bray. He lived a drunken life of debauchery. Then one day he was reading John Bunyan’s book “Visions of Heaven and Hell” and he was gloriously saved. From that time on he so sensed the inward ministry of the Spirit that he could not help but rejoicing in the goodness of God in saving him.

He said, *“I can’t help praising the Lord. As I go along the street, I lift up one foot, and it seems to say, ‘Glory.’ And I lift up the other, and it seems to say, ‘Amen.’ And so they keep on like that all the time when I am walking.”*

Indeed, ***Glory and Amen!*** May it define our walk as well!