

Romans Chapter Eight

Romans chapter eight portrays what it means to have the security of salvation IN Christ. Chapters 1 through 7 tell us of the NEED for this salvation, the FACT of salvation, the NATURE of salvation, the BLESSINGS of salvation, the OBLIGATION of salvation and the fact that the GOVERNING factor of our salvation is not the law of Moses. In Romans 8 the Holy Spirit of God through His messenger Paul presents this powerful and precious positive: "The Governing Factor Which Is Involved: The Law Of The Spirit of Life In Christ Jesus."

Chapter seven speaks of the Mosaic Law and displays graphically and vividly the wretched condition of the man who seeks salvation in it. Paul uses himself as representative of that wretched man who knows he needs salvation but cannot find it in the law that he knew and loved to the extent of destroying those who he thought opposed it.

Romans 8:1-4 – Free From Condemnation

v1. "THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM THAT ARE IN CHRIST JESUS." (ASV)

Paul begins with a contrast between what man's situation WAS under Judaism (**Romans 7**) and what man's situation IS under Christianity (the gospel or the faith) or in Christ Jesus. The "therefore" links what he is about to say with premises that he had laid out earlier. There is no condemnation (sentence of death) charged against the fortunate ones who are in Christ. To be in Christ, though, is conditional in nature. There is initial obedience required in hearing, faith, repentance, confession of Christ and immersion in water for or unto the remission of sins. (**Romans 10:17; John 8:24; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9-10; 6:3-4; Acts 2:38**). Permanent loyalty to the Lord is then required to retain salvation and avoid being condemned again. One clear implication of Paul's words here is that condemnation (a sentence of death) rests upon all accountable people who are outside of Christ.

v2. "FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND OF DEATH." (ASV)

"THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS" is the same as the gospel of Christ in **Romans 1:16** or the body of saving truth of which the Christ spoke in **John 8:32**. Please note specifically that it is called by the Holy Spirit of God "LAW"! And it is also called "LAW" in **I Corinthians 9:21**, **Galatians 6:2**, and **James 1:25** as noted in earlier studies. Law is a "rule of action." Laws are rules that govern our actions.

Romans Chapter Eight

To deny that Christians are under law, as those do who teach that we're saved by grace only, is to deny that Christians have rules of action which they must obey. This law is given by God through the Holy Spirit. He revealed it by inspiration, it is God breathed, God's words. It is linked with life because, when faithfully heard and heeded, it produces spiritual life in each one who is obedient to it. This law or gospel produces freedom. The Law of Moses did not deal with the sin problem, did not remove sins; but rather made man aware that he was condemned because he sinned.

v3-4. "FOR WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT DO, IN THAT IT WAS WEAK THROUGH THE FLESH, GOD, SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH AND FOR SIN, CONDEMNED SIN IN THE FLESH: THAT THE ORDINANCE OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT." (ASV)

For what the Law of Moses could not do: **Hebrews 7:18-19** "FOR THERE IS A DISANNULLING OF A FOREGOING COMMANDMENT BECAUSE OF ITS WEAKNESS AND UNPROFITABLENESS (FOR THE LAW MADE NOTHING PERFECT), AND A BRINGING IN THEREUPON OF A BETTER HOPE, THROUGH WHICH WE DRAW NIGH UNTO GOD." (ASV)

These verses speak of the weakness of the Mosaic Law. The weakness is chiefly reflected in what the Law of Moses had to deal with, frail humanity. The law was perfect for its God-intended purpose. Its purpose was not to justify sinful humanity. It pointed men to Christ who came in fullness of time (**Galatians 3:19; 1:4**). Jesus came as a man. He never sinned. All his bodily passions were kept under perfect control. He dealt with the sin problem at Calvary. He condemned sin in the flesh by overthrowing or canceling it out. By his sacrifice he made provisions for all to be saved.

"FOR HIM WHO KNEW NO SIN HE MADE TO BE SIN ON OUR BEHALF; THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM." **II Corinthians 5:21** (ASV)

"AND BY HIM EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH IS JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS, FROM WHICH YE COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF MOSES." **Acts 13:39** (ASV)

Christianity is conditional; it is not Calvinistic nor its synonym; unconditional. Salvation's blessings are not poured out indiscriminately on all mankind. It is for those who walk NOT after the flesh (worldly living) but for those who walk after the Spirit (spiritual living.)

Romans Chapter Eight

Romans 8:5-9 – The Carnal Mind vs The Spiritual Mind

v5. "FOR THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE FLESH MIND THE THINGS OF THE FLESH; BUT THEY THAT ARE AFTER THE SPIRIT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT." (ASV)

We have here set forth the two basic lifestyles found in this world. They stand in direct, pointed and marked contrast to each other.

John records Jesus speaking "THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE FLESH IS FLESH; AND THAT WHICH IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT IS SPIRIT." **John 3:6** (ASV)

Paul in **I Corinthians 2:14** "NOW THE NATURAL MAN RECEIVETH NOT THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD: FOR THEY ARE FOOLISHNESS UNTO HIM (Oh, how many of our friends, neighbors and co-workers does this describe?); AND HE CANNOT KNOW THEM, BECAUSE THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY JUDGED. (DISCERNED)" (ASV)

Flesh dominates one manner of life; Spirit dominates the other manner of life. Those disposed toward the flesh are those who "MIND" (are attracted to, give priority to) fleshly interests and earthly considerations. Those, on the other hand, who "MIND", or follow after, things of the Spirit are those who are attracted to and give priority to the salvation of the soul, the place of their ultimate residence and yet meet the daily, legitimate needs of their bodies, their families, etc. Their affections are set on things above (**Colossians 3:1-2**), not on things below.

v6. "FOR THE MIND OF THE FLESH IS DEATH; BUT THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE:" (ASV)

To be carnally minded is to pursue that disposition that prompts one to follow after the ways of the world; to be like those described by Paul in **I Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21** and **Ephesians 5:3-5**.

To be spiritually minded is that disposition to follow after the ways of the fruit of the Spirit or to add to our foundation of faith the seven Christian graces (**Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Peter 1:5-11**). God will reward us according to that which we follow.

"FOR HE THAT SOWETH UNTO HIS OWN FLESH SHALL OF THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION; BUT HE THAT SOWETH UNTO THE SPIRIT SHALL OF THE SPIRIT REAP ETERNAL LIFE." **Galatians 6:8** (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

v7. "BECAUSE THE MIND OF THE FLESH IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD; FOR IT IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD, NEITHER INDEED CAN IT BE:" (ASV)

If we have a carnal mind – a mind given over to fleshly things, we are God's enemy. This is the only category we can fall as long as our flesh has control over our faith. Someone with this kind of disposition rebels at and rejects the need to be submissive to God's law through Christ. This doesn't mean that they are not subject to the law of God. An example we can all understand: those who fly down the interstate at 80MPH in the 70MPH zone are still subject to the law. Lawless people in our land yearn to be free of national, state, and local laws, but are still under these laws. The fact that they ignore these laws doesn't make them free from these laws. More often than not they (speeders) don't get caught by the police; but God (the one who will judge us all), on the other hand, knows everything we do, say or think.

The Holy Spirit tells us through James "YE ADULTERESSES, KNOW YE NOT THAT THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD IS ENMITY WITH GOD? WHOSOEVER THEREFORE WOULD BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD MAKETH HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD." **James 4:4** (ASV) Jesus tells us we can't serve two masters, **Matthew 6:24**.

v8. "AND THEY THAT ARE IN THE FLESH CANNOT PLEASE GOD." (ASV)

Does this mean that those in the flesh, addicted to fleshly things, etc. can never please God? Of course not. What will be required to make them acceptable? They will have to have AN ATTITUDE CHANGE; a change of heart and mind that becomes obedient to God.

v9. "BUT YE ARE NOT IN THE FLESH BUT IN THE SPIRIT, IF SO BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLETH IN YOU. BUT IF ANY MAN HATH NOT THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS."(ASV)

Paul is writing to Christians, to those who have made a commitment to serve God. So how can a person tell whether he is fleshly-minded or carnally minded? A person that is not governed by fleshly interests but is spiritually minded is one who has the Spirit of God dwelling in him. He is one who is:

"SEARCHING WHAT TIME OR WHAT MANNER OF TIME THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHICH WAS IN THEM DID POINT UNTO, WHEN IT TESTIFIED BEFOREHAND THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST, AND THE GLORIES THAT SHOULD FOLLOW THEM." **I Peter 1:11** (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

They are those who have the Spirit of God dwelling within them as a result of their obedience to the Law of Christ and having a "MIND" for spiritual things. They are those who are the temple of God:

I Corinthians 3:16 "KNOW YE NOT THAT YE ARE A TEMPLE OF GOD, AND THAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLETH IN YOU?" (ASV)

What does it mean to have the Spirit of God dwell in us? Paul wrote to the **Ephesians 3:17-18** "THAT CHRIST MAY DWELL IN YOUR HEARTS THROUGH FAITH; TO THE END THAT YE, BEING ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN LOVE, MAY BE STRONG TO APPREHEND WITH ALL THE SAINTS WHAT IS THE BREADTH AND LENGTH AND HEIGHT AND DEPTH," (ASV)

How does this indwelling come about?

"SO BELIEF (FAITH) COMETH OF HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF CHRIST." **Romans 10:17** (ASV)

"AND BECAUSE YE ARE SONS, GOD SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS, CRYING, ABBA, FATHER." **Galatians 4:6**

Is there anything miraculous about this "indwelling"? Not at all - this is far from establishing that the entire Godhead or any part of the Godhead indwells us bodily, actually, personally, and directly, separate and apart from God's word.

Brother Guy N. Woods stated in "Questions and Answers – Open Forum" "Neither here, nor elsewhere, in the sacred writings, do the Scriptures teach that there is a literal, bodily indwelling of the Holy Spirit apart from the word... The view that the Holy Spirit, apart from the word, and in direct contact with the heart of man, leads, guides and motivates either sinners or Christians today, is a dangerous delusion."

The man who has not the Spirit is not of God. The reason is obvious. The man who does not have the influence of the Spirit of God is one who refuses to be moved and molded by Deity's will as set forth in Scripture.

Read Romans 8:10:13 – Results of the Indwelling Spirit

v10. "AND IF CHRIST IS IN YOU, THE BODY IS DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN; BUT THE SPIRIT IS LIFE BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS." (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

Because one belongs to Christ, he has put to death the desires of the body, and because of his higher, nobler standards, his dedication to serving God; he is actively and zealously engaged in righteousness or right-living.

v11. "BUT IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM THAT RAISED UP JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELLETH IN YOU, HE THAT RAISED UP CHRIST JESUS FROM THE DEAD SHALL GIVE LIFE ALSO TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU." (ASV)

Jesus was raised from the dead - that is accepted, to these people provable fact; just as the Holy Spirit tells us through Peter on Pentecost "HIM, BEING DELIVERED UP BY THE DETERMINATE COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YE BY THE HAND OF LAWLESS MEN DID CRUCIFY AND SLAY: WHOM GOD RAISED UP, HAVING LOOSED THE PANGS OF DEATH: BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE THAT HE SHOULD BE HOLDEN OF IT." **Acts 2:23-24** (ASV)

We're reassured further "AND GOD BOTH RAISED THE LORD, AND WILL RAISE UP US THROUGH HIS POWER." **I Corinthians 6:14** (ASV)

This is a precious promise indeed. "...HE THAT RAISED UP CHRIST FROM THE DEAD SHALL GIVE LIFE ALSO TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES..." If the Holy Spirit that lifted Jesus from the tomb dwells in you, then he will raise you up and give life to your mortal bodies. This will be done when the dead hear the voice of authority who is the Resurrection and the Life at the last day, the last hour and all mankind are raised from the dead for judgment.

John 5:28-29 "MARVEL NOT AT THIS: FOR THE HOUR COMETH, IN WHICH ALL THAT ARE IN THE TOMBS SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE, AND SHALL COME FORTH; THEY THAT HAVE DONE GOOD, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF LIFE; AND THEY THAT HAVE DONE EVIL, UNTO THE RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT.." (ASV)

As Christians we possess spiritual life now in Christ and, if firm and faithful to the end, will be rewarded with eternal life at judgment or that great day of the resurrection. The governing factor of life now and life eternal is our hearing and obeying the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus -- the faith, the gospel, the law of Christ.

v12. "SO THEN, BRETHREN, WE ARE DEBTORS, NOT TO THE FLESH, TO LIVE AFTER THE FLESH:" (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

Since we have been bought with the price of the blood of the Son of God; since we have been redeemed, saved, cleansed, made fit to be called God's children we are debtors. Paul here is writing to brethren. They, he and we have obeyed the truth. Paul says therefore we have an obligation to God. We studied in **Romans 1:14** that we have a constraining and continuing obligation to bring this Good News to every person that we can reach. By the same reasoning we are debtors and obligated to serve God because he gave the blood of his only begotten Son to cleanse our souls of their sin. We, by the action of becoming God's children, have made a commitment to God that is even higher than the commitment that we made to our spouses when we married.

v13. "FOR IF YE LIVE AFTER THE FLESH, YE MUST DIE (the old law of sin and death again); BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YE PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY, YE SHALL LIVE." (ASV)

"FOR HE THAT SOWETH UNTO HIS OWN FLESH SHALL OF THE FLESH REAP CORRUPTION; BUT HE THAT SOWETH UNTO THE SPIRIT SHALL OF THE SPIRIT REAP ETERNAL LIFE." **Galatians 6:8**

We owe no constraining or continuing debt to the flesh or to live after the flesh. Those who ignore teaching such as this by Jesus, Paul and his other disciples and insist on living after the flesh are going to die. This is spiritual death or what Jesus and John in Revelation calls the second death (**Revelation 2:11; 20:14; 21:8**)

"PUT TO DEATH THEREFORE YOUR MEMBERS WHICH ARE UPON THE EARTH: FORNICATION, UNCLEANNESS, PASSION, EVIL DESIRE, AND COVETOUSNESS, WHICH IS IDOLATRY;" **Colossians 3:5**

"put to death" - action phrase, something you do, actively, deliberately, with conscience aforethought. Those who by the Spirit put to death the deeds of the body are going to live. Heaven is to be their eternal abode. What is the governing factor of avoiding the death described in this passage and gaining the life it offers? The Law of Christ: "FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND OF DEATH." **Romans 8:2** (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

Read Romans 8:14-17 – We Are the Sons of God

v14. "FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THESE ARE SONS OF GOD." (ASV)

Multitudes read this scripture concerning the leading of the Holy Spirit and immediately conclude that this refers to a direct leading of the Holy Spirit totally separate and completely apart from the word of God -- the Bible. Not so!!! Were this Paul's meaning, he would be setting at naught the very purpose of his whole epistle, i.e., the gospel as God's power -- his ONLY power -- to save mankind. The Spirit has revealed to us the gospel from God, the good news of redemption in Christ. As we hear and obey the gospel, we are led by the Spirit. This is how sonship to God is established.

v15. "FOR YE RECEIVED NOT THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN UNTO FEAR; BUT YE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY, ABBA, FATHER." (ASV)

When the Romans obeyed the commandments of the gospel, they did not receive again the bondage of fear. The word "AGAIN" in this verse is significant. Jews under Judaism and Gentiles under idolatry served under a bondage of fear. Not so with Christians. To the contrary; adoption is now our lot. Adoption, to a person acquainted with Roman law, meant that a person was deeply wanted, was entitled to an inheritance, enjoyed the same civil status as the one who did the adopting and became, as it were, his other self, one with him. Our laws today are rooted in these same concepts. "Abba, Father" one word being Aramaic and the other Greek is an expression emphasizing endearment.

As God's adopted children "...WE RECEIVED, NOT THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD, BUT THE SPIRIT WHICH IS FROM GOD; THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE THINGS THAT WERE FREELY GIVEN TO US OF GOD." **I Corinthians 2:12** (ASV)

We are God's adopted because he sent his son "BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME CAME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM THEM THAT WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION OF SONS. AND BECAUSE YE ARE SONS, GOD SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT OF HIS SON INTO OUR HEARTS, CRYING, ABBA, FATHER." **Galatians 4:4-6**

Romans Chapter Eight

v16. "THE SPIRIT HIMSELF BEARETH WITNESS WITH OUR SPIRIT, THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD:" (ASV)

In addition to declaring that the Spirit is the witness that we are God's children, Paul also describes the Spirit as the "EARNEST" that guarantees that God will keep his covenant in **II Corinthians 1:22**. In a real estate transaction we all know what the term "earnest money" represents. It is an advance payment that guarantees our commitment to the purchase, guarantees that we are "in earnest" about completing this real estate transaction. We find further verification that we have been sealed, or that an "EARNEST" or guarantee has been provided for our soul's salvation:

"NOW HE THAT WROUGHT US FOR THIS VERY THING IS GOD, WHO GAVE UNTO US THE EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT." **II Corinthians 5:5** (ASV)

"AND GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, IN WHOM YE WERE SEALED UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION." **Ephesians 4:30** (ASV)

So in verses 15 and 16 we have two witnesses which bear testimony to our being God's children. The Holy Spirit is one witness; our spirit is the other witness. Note that the Spirit bears witness with -- not to our spirit. Numerous denominational preachers have tampered with prepositions here in efforts to get a direct operation of the Spirit. They change with to the preposition to. But there are two witnesses -- the Holy Spirit and our spirit. What testimony is given? That we are God's children. How is it done? The Holy Spirit in "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" reveals how to become a Christian and then how to remain in harmony with God. Our human spirit bears testimony as to whether we have obeyed and are continuing to obey "THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST."

v17. "AND IF CHILDREN, THEN HEIRS; HEIRS OF GOD, AND JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST; IF SO BE THAT WE SUFFER WITH *him*, THAT WE MAY BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER." (ASV)

Paul in his defense before Herod Agrippa quotes Jesus, stating his purpose in coming to earth as "TO OPEN THEIR EYES, THAT THEY MAY TURN FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT AND FROM THE POWER OF SATAN UNTO GOD, THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE REMISSION OF SINS AND AN INHERITANCE AMONG THEM THAT ARE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH IN ME." **Acts 26:18** (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

"SO THAT THOU ART NO LONGER A BONDSERVANT, BUT A SON; AND IF A SON, THEN AN HEIR THROUGH GOD." **Galatians 4:7** (ASV)

As the sons of God Paul says that we can expect to receive the same kind of treatment that Jesus received. This is not to say that we would be persecuted today in the same manner as the 1st Century Christians but rather we will enjoy the same blessings and privileges of being the sons of God. As such we will be looked down upon by people who consider themselves to be "enlightened" in the terms that this world understands. Oh, we probably don't know anyone who suffers because they are a Christian in our circle of friends today, but if the political left wing in this country continues their assault on anything and everything related to God it will come; perhaps not in our lifetime but not long thereafter. Our children and grandchildren need to be taught Paul's words:

"BECAUSE TO YOU IT HATH BEEN GRANTED IN THE BEHALF OF CHRIST, NOT ONLY TO BELIEVE ON HIM, BUT ALSO TO SUFFER IN HIS BEHALF:" **Philippians 1:29** (ASV)

Paul writes to Timothy that "FAITHFUL IS THE SAYING: FOR IF WE DIED WITH HIM, WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM: IF WE ENDURE, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM: IF WE SHALL DENY HIM, HE ALSO WILL DENY US:" **II Timothy 2:11-12** (ASV)

Romans 8:18-25 – Sustained by Our Hope

v18. "FOR I RECKON THAT THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED TO US-WARD." (ASV)

In summary of this section, if we are children of God, then we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Our inheritance is heaven. But this inheritance is conditional upon our being God's children. Glorification in heaven with him is subsequent to any suffering that we might do for him now. The sufferings we experience (whatever they may be) are as nothing when compared with the glory later to be ours in heaven.

v19. "FOR THE EARNEST EXPECTATION OF THE CREATURE {creation} WAITETH FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD."

Romans Chapter Eight

Paul is using a figure of speech to say that all of creation is looking forward to the day when death's reign over mankind ends. Through sin; death entered the world; it was not so before man sinned. So now all God's creation, that knows anything about the Bible, looks forward to the day when death would be overcome. That day came with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. As a result of God's promises we find in the fact that Jesus was resurrected the seal, guarantee, warranty that God will indeed raise us from the dead someday.

"BUT, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, WE LOOK FOR NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, WHEREIN DWELLETH RIGHTEOUSNESS." **II Peter 3:13** (ASV)

"AND EVERY ONE THAT HATH THIS HOPE SET ON HIM PURIFIETH HIMSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE." **I John 3:3** (ASV)

v20. "FOR THE CREATION WAS SUBJECTED TO VANITY, NOT OF ITS OWN WILL, BUT BY REASON OF HIM WHO SUBJECTED IT, IN HOPE." (ASV)

As a result of Adam's sin, death was brought into the world. The whole creation was cursed and fell away from its original design and became subject to the reign of death. Not because it was flawed because all of God's creation was "VERY GOOD" (**Genesis 1:31**). But the freedom of man to sin or not sin as he chose brought mortality and death to all men because man chose to sin.

"...BUT BY REASON OF HIM (God) WHO HATH SUBJECT *the same* IN HOPE." **Romans 8:20** above

v21. "THAT THE CREATION ITSELF ALSO SHALL BE DELIVERED FROM THE BONDAGE OF CORRUPTION INTO THE LIBERTY OF THE GLORY OF THE CHILDREN OF GOD." (ASV)

When deliverance comes to the children of God and death is removed from this world, the bondage of corruption is loosed, the prison house of the grave no longer holds its captives; then death will have been put to an end. Nothing will ever die again; the mortality that was brought on by the sin of man will no longer rule.

v22. "FOR WE KNOW THAT THE WHOLE CREATION GROANETH AND TRAVAILETH IN PAIN TOGETHER UNTIL NOW." (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

The whole creation suffered from the effects of man's sin. This whole creation is represented here as suffering and groaning because of its mortality and being all together in travail (weeping and in pain) because of man's sin in the garden.

All creation; it doesn't matter whether we are Christian or non-Christian, Islamic, Buddhist or Hindu or whatever nationality, ethnic background or race; all mankind knows pain, suffering, death and decay.

v23. "AND NOT ONLY SO, BUT OURSELVES ALSO, WHO HAVE THE FIRST-FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, EVEN WE OURSELVES GROAN WITHIN OURSELVES, WAITING FOR OUR ADOPTION, TO WIT, THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODY." (ASV)

Speaking of this house, our fleshly body, Paul writes "FOR VERILY IN THIS WE GROAN, LONGING TO BE CLOTHED UPON WITH OUR HABITATION WHICH IS FROM HEAVEN: IF SO BE THAT BEING CLOTHED WE SHALL NOT BE FOUND NAKED. FOR INDEED WE THAT ARE IN THIS TABERNACLE DO GROAN, BEING BURDENED; NOT FOR THAT WE WOULD BE UNCLOTHED, BUT THAT WE WOULD BE CLOTHED UPON, THAT WHAT IS MORTAL MAY BE SWALLOWED UP OF LIFE." **II Corinthians 5:2-4** (ASV)

Here the apostle affirms, confirms as it were, that even those with the firstfruits of the Spirit -- the apostles with all their miraculous gifts -- knew trial and tribulation, knew pain and persecution. Yet in faith and confidence they waited for the redemption of the body at the last day when all would be raised and then taken, if faithful, to heaven on high.

v24. "FOR IN HOPE WERE WE SAVED: BUT HOPE THAT IS SEEN IS NOT HOPE: FOR WHO HOPETH FOR THAT WHICH HE SEETH?" (ASV)

II Corinthians 5:7 "(FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT.)" (ASV)

Hebrews 11:1 "NOW FAITH IS ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, A CONVICTION OF THINGS NOT SEEN." (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

We are saved by or in hope. The New Testament stresses many things by which we are saved or justified. All these conditions must be met if we would gain God's grace for our souls. Hope looks to the future -- not the past and present. Included in this term are such essential elements as expectation, desire, and anticipation. We hope for what we have yet to receive. When an objective is realized, hope has reached its completion and therefore it is no longer hope but actuality. Hope is out of place if what we hoped for is already a present possession. That is why we hope for eternal life, because we have it only in promise or prospect now--not in actuality.

v25. "BUT IF WE HOPE FOR THAT WHICH WE SEE NOT, THEN DO WE WITH PATIENCE WAIT FOR IT."

If we had what we are hoping for in actuality now, we would no longer need to hope for it. And yet this we are to do according to this text and **Titus 1:2** "IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH GOD, THAT CANNOT LIE, PROMISED BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.; We hope for eternal life because we have not yet seen the judgment. We exercise the necessary patience (endurance, steadfastness) in waiting for its arrival.

Romans 8:26-30 – The Foundation for Our Hope

v26-27. "AND IN LIKE MANNER THE SPIRIT ALSO HELPETH OUR INFIRMITY: FOR WE KNOW NOT HOW TO PRAY AS WE OUGHT; BUT THE SPIRIT HIMSELF MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US WITH GROANINGS WHICH CANNOT BE UTTERED; AND HE THAT SEARCHETH THE HEARTS KNOWETH WHAT IS THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT, BECAUSE HE MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR THE SAINTS ACCORDING TO THE WILL OF GOD." (ASV)

Sonship, suffering, and hope all help us in this life (**Romans 8:14-25**). The Spirit helps us as well. The imagery in this verse is seemingly drawn from one who attempts to lift a burden greater than he can bear. The Spirit, graciously and generously, lends us a helping hand.

Note what is affirmed. (1) The Spirit helps; (2) he helps our infirmities; (3) we know not how to pray as we ought; (4) the Spirit makes intercession for us; (5) this he does by taking OUR groanings (utterable sighing) which are ours and not his) and conveying them intelligently to the Father; (6) the Father, the great heart-searcher and heart-knower, observes these in the mind of the Spirit and acts accordingly; (7) the Spirit makes intercession for the saints; (8) this intercession is ALWAYS in total harmony with God's will.

Romans Chapter Eight

Please observe that this is something that the Spirit does for us - not to us. This is something done in HEAVEN not on EARTH. Likewise, it must be kept firmly fixed in our minds in the contemplation of this text that mediation and intercession are two different things, they are NOT synonymous. Only Jesus Christ mediates (**I Timothy 2:5**). Anyone who has opportunity may intercede. The Spirit intercedes for us as this text affirms. Righteous people may intercede for us. Abraham interceded for Sodom in **Genesis 18:22-33**. Paul called for Timothy to intercede.

I Timothy 2:1 "I EXHORT THEREFORE, FIRST OF ALL, THAT SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, THANKSGIVINGS, BE MADE FOR ALL MEN;" (ASV)

We intercede with God for others on a regular basis when we pray. In fact the Greek word *enteuxis* (noun) means to "approach a king or God in intercession and is rendered "PRAYER" in **I Timothy 4:5** and in the plural "PRAYERS" in **I Timothy 2:1** above. The verb form of the Greek word means "to intercede", "to make petition", either for or against a person. This word *entunchano* is translated "have dealt with" in **Acts 25:24**, "intercession" in **Romans 11:2**, and is used to describe the "intercessory work of the Holy Spirit for the saints" in **Romans 8:27**. In **Romans 8:26** the prefix *huber*, "on behalf of" is added *entunchano* to describe "the work of the Holy Spirit in making intercession". All quotes in this paragraph are from *Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* complete and unabridged, dated 1952.

v28. "AND WE KNOW THAT TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." (ASV)

This is one verse of scripture that I heard over and over again when a child as it was my Mother's favorite. She ingrained it into the minds of our children as well to the extent that our daughter made her a Christmas gift of it in framed needlework. That gift hung in a place of honor on her living room wall until the day she died. It is a precious promise. It pertains to lovers of God and those called according to his purpose.

Paul writes in **II Timothy 1:9** that God is one "WHO SAVED US, AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE TIMES ETERNAL," (ASV)

Lovers of God obey his commands; the called are Christians.

Romans Chapter Eight

v29. "FOR WHOM HE FOREKNEW, HE ALSO FOREORDAINED TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BRETHREN:" (ASV)

As we consider this verse let us keep in mind that Paul is talking about those who love God, those who are called; the entire number of those who accept salvation and practice the Law of Christ from their beginning in it until heaven is reached at last. When all of complete redemption is considered, Christians can readily see how all things indeed work for our ultimate good. These verses depict scriptural selection -- not Calvinistic election on a purely arbitrary basis. God foreknew or approved what type of character he planned to save -- the obedient. These were appointed to be conformed to the image of his Son -- people born of water and the Spirit (**John 3:5**) and who would then grow into the likeness of Christ. Jesus prayed that all might be brethren:

John 17:22 "AND THE GLORY WHICH THOU HAST GIVEN ME I HAVE GIVEN UNTO THEM; THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, EVEN AS WE ARE ONE;" (ASV)

Paul tells us in **II Corinthians 3:18** that as we become obedient to God's principles we also become the image of a son of God. "BUT WE ALL, WITH UNVEILED FACE BEHOLDING AS IN A MIRROR THE GLORY OF THE LORD, ARE TRANSFORMED INTO THE SAME IMAGE FROM GLORY TO GLORY, EVEN AS FROM THE LORD THE SPIRIT." (ASV)

Paul uses similar language in other places "HAVING FOREORDAINED US UNTO ADOPTION AS SONS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST UNTO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS WILL," **Ephesians 1:5** (ASV)

He also lets us know that God knows who are his "HOWBEIT THE FIRM FOUNDATION OF GOD STANDETH, HAVING THIS SEAL, THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT ARE HIS: AND, LET EVERY ONE THAT NAMETH THE NAME OF THE LORD DEPART FROM UNRIGHTEOUSNESS." **II Timothy 2:19** (ASV)

v30. "AND WHOM HE FOREORDAINED, THEM HE ALSO CALLED: AND WHOM HE CALLED, THEM HE ALSO JUSTIFIED: AND WHOM HE JUSTIFIED, THEM HE ALSO GLORIFIED." (ASV)

The called are those who have accepted the gospel invitation. The justified are those pardoned or forgiven. This occurs in gospel obedience. The glorified are those destined for heaven as verse 17 also tells us. **Romans 8:19-30** is the plan of redemption in a capsule.

Romans Chapter Eight

Peter gives us the same information in different words that are perhaps more understandable to us today: "BUT YE ARE A ELECT RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, THAT YE MAY SHOW FORTH THE EXCELLENCIES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT." I **Peter 2:9** (ASV)

Romans 8:31-39 – God's Wonderful Love

v31. "WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO IS AGAINST US?" (ASV)

When Israel rebelled against God and Moses at the report of the ten spies Moses told them "ONLY REBEL NOT YE AGAINST THE **LORD**, NEITHER FEAR YE THE PEOPLE OF THE LAND; FOR THEY **are** BREAD FOR US: THEIR DEFENSE IS DEPARTED FROM THEM, AND THE **LORD is** WITH US: FEAR THEM NOT." **Numbers 14:9** (ASV)

We are also assured by the Psalmist "JEHOVAH IS ON MY SIDE; I WILL NOT FEAR: WHAT CAN MAN DO UNTO ME?" **Psalms 118:6** (ASV)

This has reference to what God has done to insure our redemption, the reward of obedience to his will, and whatever sufferings we may have to endure due to our relationship with Him. No man can destroy our relationship with God, only we can do that.

v32. "HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?" (ASV)

If God be for us, then no one of real consequence can be against us. Paul, as does Jesus in **Matthew 6:25**, provides a picture of God's providence (how God cares for us) and reasons from the greater to the lesser. If God spared not his own Son but delivered him up to Calvary for our redemption (the greater), then surely he will not deprive us of our other essential needs (the lesser.) God's providence abounds far beyond our feeble ability to understand or appreciate it or describe its great value to our souls.

v33. "WHO SHALL LAY ANYTHING TO THE CHARGE OF GOD'S ELECT? IT IS GOD THAT JUSTIFIETH;." (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

This verse mentions God's elect. Calvinism has greatly muddied the crystal-clear waters of Biblical election. It is simply a picking or a choosing - not an unsound arbitrary selection on God's part with no consideration given to such things as character, faith, good works, etc. God chooses, or elects, to save those who choose to obey his will. He does not choose to save the disobedient. The matter is just that simple and understandable. Isaiah wrote:

"HE IS NEAR THAT JUSTIFIETH ME; WHO WILL CONTENT WITH ME? LET US STAND UP TOGETHER: WHO IS MINE ADVERSARY? LET HIM COME NEAR TO ME. BEHOLD, THE LORD JEHOVAH WILL HELP ME; WHO IS HE THAT SHALL CONDEMN ME? BEHOLD, ALL THEY SHALL WAX OLD AS A GARMENT, THE MOTHS SHALL EAT THEM UP." **Isaiah 50:8-9** (ASV)

v34. "WHO IS HE THAT CONDEMNETH? IT IS CHRIST JESUS THAT DIED, YEA RATHER, THAT WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, WHO IS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, WHO ALSO MAKETH INTERCESSION FOR US." (ASV)

Christ died and was raised again on the third day, we will die but we will also be raised again at the last day because Jesus Christ is our mediator.

Paul reminds us in **Colossians 3:1** "IF THEN YE WERE RAISED TOGETHER WITH CHRIST, SEEK THE THINGS THAT ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST IS, SEATED ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD." (ASV)

"FOR CHRIST ENTERED NOT INTO A HOLY PLACE MADE WITH HANDS, LIKE IN PATTERN TO THE TRUE; BUT INTO HEAVEN ITSELF, NOW TO APPEAR BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD FOR US:" **Hebrews 9:24** (ASV)

"WHEREFORE ALSO HE IS ABLE TO SAVE TO THE UTTERMOST THEM THAT DRAW NEAR UNTO GOD THROUGH HIM, SEEING HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION FOR THEM." **Hebrews 7:25** (ASV)

And finally let us look at John's encouragement in **I John 2:1** "MY LITTLE CHILDREN, THESE THINGS WRITE I UNTO YOU THAT YE MAY NOT SIN. AND IF ANY MAN SIN, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS:" (ASV)

v35. "WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST? SHALL TRIBULATION, OR ANGUISH, OR PERSECUTION, OR FAMINE, OR NAKEDNESS, OR PERIL, OR SWORD?"

Romans Chapter Eight

Those things mentioned in this context could never destroy God's love for us; but they might destroy our love for him. This Paul feared and gave exhortations to aid the Roman Christians of his own era and all subsequent readers of his words to avoid at all costs the development of a lesser love for the Lord. Outward tribulations, distresses and persecutions should increase -- NEVER decrease -- our love for Christ. Famine, a lack of food, insufficient clothing, perils (dangers of various kinds), should never cause our love for Jesus to wax cold. Paul faced these daily and stood fast.

v36. "EVEN AS IT IS WRITTEN, FOR THY SAKE WE ARE KILLED ALL THE DAY LONG; WE WERE ACCOUNTED AS SHEEP FOR THE SLAUGHTER."
(ASV)

This is a direct quote of **Psalms 44:22** and laments the condition of Israel when they disobeyed God and he sent their enemies against them.

We may have trouble understanding this analogy today but Paul understood it all too well. "WHY DO WE ALSO STAND IN JEOPARDY EVERY HOUR? I PROTEST BY THAT GLORIFYING IN YOU, BRETHREN, WHICH I HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD, I DIE DAILY." **I Corinthians 15:30-31** (ASV) Did Paul really die daily? Of course not, but he did stand in the face of death daily. He did suffer as much or more than any Christian that we could read about in scripture.

II Corinthians 4:11 "FOR WE WHO LIVE ARE ALWAYS DELIVERED UNTO DEATH FOR JESUS' SAKE, THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MAY BE MANIFESTED IN OUR MORTAL FLESH." (ASV)

v37. "NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM THAT LOVED US."

I Corinthians 15:57 "BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVETH US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." (ASV)

II Corinthians 2:14 "BUT THANKS BE UNTO GOD, WHO ALWAYS LEADETH US IN TRIUMPH IN CHRIST, AND MAKETH MANIFEST THROUGH US THE SAVOR OF HIS KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY PLACE." (ASV)

We will wrap up this thought with **I John 4:4** "YE ARE OF GOD, MY LITTLE CHILDREN, AND HAVE OVERCOME THEM: BECAUSE GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD." (ASV)

Romans Chapter Eight

v38-39. "FOR I AM PERSUADED, THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS, NOR PRINCIPALITIES, NOR THINGS PRESENT, NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, SHALL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD, WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD."

I never read these two verses of scripture except that it brings to mind an incident that happened several years ago when I heard a so-called gospel preacher leave out three words in this passage and proceed to teach "once saved, always saved" just as plain as any man could. But that's not what these verses teach.

What they do teach is that none of these things is going to destroy God's love for us. Life and death are terrestrial realities. Angels, principalities and powers, whether above or below, will never interfere with God's love for us and should not interfere with our love for God.

These things are all subject to Saviour "WHO IS ONE THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, HAVING GONE INTO HEAVEN; ANGELS AND AUTHORITIES AND POWERS BEING MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM." **I Peter 3:22** (ASV)

Paul also tells us that Jesus is far above all these things "FAR ABOVE ALL RULE, AND AUTHORITY, AND POWER, AND DOMINION, AND EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, NOT ONLY IN THIS WORLD, BUT ALSO IN THAT WHICH IS TO COME:" **Ephesians 1:21** (ASV)

Things present and things to come (time and circumstance), height and depth (the extremes above and below), and no creature known or unknown will ever erase God's love for us and should not remove our love for God. There is nothing that can break God's love for us and only one thing that can break our love for God. If our resolve breaks, if our love cannot stand the test of trial, time or our desire for worldly things then we can sever this relationship that we enjoy with our heavenly father. But we are the only ones who (once it's established) can do that.

"WHEREFORE, MY BELOVED BRETHREN, BE YE STEDFAST, UNMOVEABLE, ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN THE WORK OF THE LORD, FORASMUCH AS YE KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IS NOT VAIN IN THE LORD." **I Corinthians 15:58** (ASV)