

**I. REVIEW – THE GOSPEL OF GRACE**

- A. Romans 3-8 is the most complete presentation of the gospel of grace. Paul describes who we are in Christ in our new **legal position** and how we are to respond in our **living condition**.
- B. Last session we reviewed Romans 6 which tells us how to access, or experience, the power of our legal position. This is the main chapter in Scripture that teaches on personal transformation. Paul gives us three main principles.
  - 1. Romans 6:1-10: Our **legal position**—what we received by being united to Jesus.
  - 2. Romans 6:11-13: How to **cooperate with grace**—the three primary principles
  - 3. Romans 6:14-23: Our **living condition**—what we experience as we cooperate with grace
- C. Paul outlined in Romans 6: 11-13, three principles for accessing the gospel of grace and experience victorious living.
  - 1. **Knowing Principle** – We are to see ourselves as God sees us: righteous in Christ, indwelt, empowered, with a significant impact. Rom. 6:11
  - 2. **Resisting Principle** – We are to actively resist temptation and sin. As we resist fleshly carnal ways, we develop strength of spirit. Rom. 6:12-13a
  - 3. **Pursuing Principle** – We are invited to actively pursue a relationship with God putting forth effort in a relationship which we highly value. Rom. 6: 13

**II. PAUL DESCRIBES OUR BONDING TO THE FLESH VS. OUR BONDING TO GOD**

- A. Paul rounds out his teaching regarding the gospel of grace by describing the bonding process that takes place in a person's heart at salvation.
- B. Outline of Rom. 7: 19 – 8:15
  - 1. Rom. 7:19-24 – O Wretched Man that I am, Who will deliver me?
  - 2. Rom. 7: 25—8: 12 – Jesus Calls us to Sonship - Flesh vs. Spirit – True Sons of God
  - 3. Rom. 8: 13-17 – Spirit of Adoption

**III. HOLY SPIRIT DOES HIS WORK – 2 WAYS HOLY SPIRIT MINISTERS TO US.**

***<sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:15-16***

- A. Holy Spirit has a dual role in ministering to us the hope of the gospel of grace. It is his job to (1) convince us of our need for God; (2) minister to us the Spirit of adoption.
- B. We cannot enter into nor accomplish any of what God has provided unless we first recognize our sinfulness, see our need for God, repent of our sinful ways and receive forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus.
- C. First, Holy Spirit convicts us that we have bonded to the wrong father (Satan, sin) that will only produce death. Having bonded to sin we are in bondage and do not have the power to free ourselves.

***<sup>8</sup> And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Jn. 16:8***

***...the spirit of bondage again to fear...Rom. 8:15***

- 1. Satan called the “father of lies”...

***<sup>41</sup> You do the deeds of your father.” Then they said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. <sup>43</sup> Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. <sup>44</sup> You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. <sup>45</sup> But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. <sup>46</sup> Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? <sup>47</sup> He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” John 8: 41-47***

- 2. Nature of Satan as a father...in other words, what he transfers to the next generation of his “children” (those who follow his ways)...
  - a. Unable to listen to truth and receive it.
  - b. Murderer, with an angry spirit
  - c. Not able to stand nor walk in the truth
  - d. Speaks lies and the author (father) of lies
  - e. Rebellious seeking his own path
  - f. Manipulative and Controlling
- D. Second, the Spirit of adoption coming from God bonds us in relationship to himself.

***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.” 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. Rom. 8:15-16***

1. Adoption – taking the children of another and through a legal process making them your own.
  2. Adoption -- the nature and condition of the true disciples in Christ, who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become sons of God.
- E. The Spirit of adoption whereby we cry out, “Abba Father” comes to those who recognize first their bondage to sin. When God reveals himself as our Father, we recognize that we are not bonded to him (a living God) but are bound to sin that produces death.
- F. We are all going to be “bonded” to something or someone. Whether bondage (bonded) to sin or bonded to Father God in deep relationship.
- G. When we cry for help, Holy Spirit cuts away our bondage to sin (bonding) and establishes a new bond with Father God. This bond between us and God is like a mark on the spirit that connects us spiritually.

***In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Eph. 1:13-14***

#### **IV. GOD ADOPTS ISRAEL – EZEKIEL 16**

*Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations, <sup>3</sup> and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD to Jerusalem: “Your birth and your nativity are from the land of Canaan; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite. <sup>4</sup> As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. <sup>5</sup> No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you, to have compassion on you; but you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. <sup>6</sup> “And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ <sup>7</sup> I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful...<sup>8</sup> “When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>9</sup> “Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. <sup>10</sup> I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. <sup>11</sup> I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. <sup>12</sup> And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. <sup>13</sup> Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. <sup>14</sup> Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord GOD. <sup>15</sup> “But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it. Ezekiel 16: 1-15*