

Eternal Life

(Rom 8:5-8)

- Paul is contrasting the believer with the unbeliever in this passage
- I. Rom 8:6- “To be spiritually minded is life”
 - A) V.6 is an explanation of v.5:
 - 1. The Christian minds the things of the Spirit because he is alive
 - i. Just as the non-Christian minds the things of the flesh because he is dead
 - B) Spiritual mind = life
 - 1. The lost person is not truly interested in spiritual things, but the saved person has been made to be interested
 - C) Test of our exposition
 - 1. We have said that beginning in Rom ch 5 Paul began the subject with which we are still dealing: “life in Christ”
 - i. Rom 5:10- This verse really begins the subject and is theme verse for what follows
 - a) The Christian isn’t simply a “believer,” he is made alive in Christ and Christ is alive in Him
 - 1) Rom 5:12- Adam imparted death, Christ imparts life
 - 2) Rom 5:15-18- “Justification” and “life” cannot be separated
 - 3) Rom 6:4- Dead and raised
 - 4) Rom 6:5- Resurrection life
 - 5) Rom 6:8- Live with Him
 - 6) Rom 6:10-11- Alive unto God
 - 7) Rom 6:22-23- Gifted life
 - 8) Rom 7:4- Alive and fruitful
 - b) All of this is just another way to say “regeneration” or “born of the Spirit”
 - 2. Proof texts from other books
 - i. Eph 2:1- Quickened
 - ii. 2 Pet 1:4- Partaker of divine nature (life)
 - iii. John 4:14- Living water
 - iv. John 5:24- Passed from death to life
 - a) Same as Rom 8:1-6, but stated in reverse
 - v. John 6:50-58- Bread of life
 - vi. John 10:10- Abundant life
 - vii. John 17:1-4- Eternal life
 - a) Eternal life is a quality, not simply unending life
 - 3. All of this is expansion of Rom 8:2- “Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”

- i. 1 Cor 15:45- 2nd Adam a life giving Spirit
- II. “Life”- what exactly is this? (1 Pet 2:2- life grows after its kind)
 - A) This is necessary to cover because this “life” is something that is commonly feigned or faked up to a point
 - 1. Matt 7:15- Wolf in sheep’s clothing
 - 2. Matt 23:25-26- Cleaning the outside of the cup
 - 3. 2 Tim 3:5- Having a form of godliness
 - i. But the life of Christ is something “in” you and not “outside of you”
 - a) Example of Christmas tree decorated and a live tree bearing fruit
 - B) This “life” isn’t something that is added on top of what you already have
 - 1. Not understanding this subject is what leads so many to make great appeals for “decisions” and for “heart dedications” unto salvation
 - 2. Heb 9:14- Purged from “dead works” (outward ornaments of show)
 - 3. 2 Cor 5:17- New creatures (creation)
 - C) This “life” is alive and grows, is not static
 - 1. “Growing in grace...”
 - 2. This life may be small and feeble, like a babe, but it is there, and it affects all we do, even while sinning
 - 3. Example of a fake flower and a real flower
 - i. The real flower may be drooping and withered, but give it water and it reacts
 - ii. However small, this life will show
 - 4. Phil 1:6- This life will flow
 - i. Example of a stagnant pond and a spring or fountain
 - ii. It is the opposite of mechanical religion or duty
 - a) It’s something in us that is always breaking out and springing forth, even when we wish it wasn’t
 - b) Jeremiah and the fire in his belly
 - D) This life can never be taken away, it is eternal and enduring
 - 1. John 5:24- Passed from death to life
 - 2. Example of a “backslider”
 - i. All a backslider does, he does under internal condemnation
 - ii. The backslider always returns to the Lord because the life that is in him
 - a) The apostate doesn’t return because he is dead and has been all along
 - b) Heb 6:4-6
 - 3. The Christian can fall so far as to wish to have never heard of this life, but that’s simply proof that the life is in him and stronger than the death he prefers
 - E) This life is never “full” in this lifetime
 - 1. The Christian is aware of his lack, and desires more of God
 - 2. The Christian mourns his indifference and laziness
 - 3. The Christian cannot escape his need of sanctification