

Overview of Romans Ch 8

(Rom 8:1)

I. Text

A) Many bibles omit Rom 8:1b

1. “Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” not in oldest manuscripts
2. Textual critics say it was transposed from 8:4

II. Context

A) “Therefore”- Deduction from what’s gone before

1. So we must start with 7:25
 - i. There is no sensible contextual link
2. What about previous sub-section of 7:13-25
 - i. Again, no sensible link
3. Then, how about Rom ch 7
 - i. No link again
4. In fact, there is no link to ch 6 either

B) As we said when we began Rom ch 6, both ch 6-7 are a parenthesis

1. The logical link contextually is to Rom ch 5, and especially to v.20-21
 - i. So then: Rom 1-5 ([ch 6] [ch 7]) Rom 8
 - a) So ch 8 is directly linked to the context of ch 3b-5 (justification by faith “In Christ”)
 - b) And ch 8 also comes in at the right place to remove the difficulty of Rom ch 7 and the helplessness of a man trying to sanctify himself
 - ii. Or: Rom 5:12-21= “In Christ Jesus” → (wrong attitudes of this position answered in ch 6-7) → Rom ch 8= Proper attitude concerning self for a Christian
 - a) When a Christian speaks of breaking God’s law & his sins, he must never stop at that (as in 7:24), but go on to praise the Lord Jesus Christ for His redemption
 - 1) Disgust with failure to please Savior, and not condemnation
 - b) Rom ch 8 shows there is neither condemnation nor separation for the child of God
2. Rom ch 8 is not new information in the epistle
 - i. It is an exposition of ch 5
 - a) Just as ch 5 was a summary statement of ch3b-4
 - ii. As Rom 5:1 is the main statement, then worked out in the rest of the chapter, so also Rom 8:1 is the main statement worked out in the rest of ch 8

III. Mechanics of ch 8

A) Rom 8:1- Paul's doctrinal statement

1. Rom 8:2-34- Explanation of v.1 (proving the doctrine)

- i. 8:2-4- 1st proof: because we are delivered from the law that condemns
- ii. 8:5-13- 2nd proof: because of the Spirit that is now in us
 - a) He will effectually purge all remaining sin
 - b) He will raise our physical body
- iii. 8:14-17- 3rd proof: because we are adopted into the family of God
- iv. 8:18-25- 4th proof: because we have been given the inheritance and must receive it
 - a) Sin has affected the entire creation, and God will cleanse both it and us to dwell within it
- v. 8:26-27- 5th proof: We aren't abandoned even now but have been assigned Holy guidance
- vi. 8:28-30- 6th proof: God has planned and purposed full redemption and it cannot fail
- vii. 8:31-34- God did not even spare His Son in order to achieve this plan, but sacrificed Him, how can He fail to accomplish all
 - a) Acts 2:23- Eternal counsel and foreknowledge of God
 - b) It is absolutely inconceivable that God would cause the death of His Son and then allow anything to cause His plan to fail

2. Rom 8:35-39- Summary statement

- i. Who then or what could possibly stop God's plan of redemption
- ii. All of this argued from the point of God's greatest attribute: His love
 - a) Read hymn Debtor To Mercy Alone- "nothing can make Him His purpose forego"
 - b) "There is therefore no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus!"