

Righteousness Imputed and Imparted

(Rom 8:3-4)

- Remember that Rom 8:1-4 is a return to the doctrine of ch 5, and a final summary statement of the great teaching begun by 5:10

I. General

A) “For”- Paul’s continuing explanation of the statement in v.1

1. Paul’s “for” in v.3 expounds upon his statement in v.2
 - i. Having explained that condemnation is removed for the believer, and that due to not being “under the law”, Paul now expounds upon the reason for the law’s apparent “failure”
 - ii. Then in v.4 he shows the results
2. Double purpose throughout
 - i. Not only are we not condemned in Christ, but we are now in the blessed realm and influence of the Spirit
 - a) You can be a Christian and not have the assurance of these things, but your “life” will reflect it
 - ii. Reaffirming previous teaching & fundamental principle of Rom 5:12-21
 - a) Rom 5:20-21, 6:14, 7:4&6
 - 1) Not just no longer “in Adam” but now “in Christ”
 - 2) Rom 8:3-4 does the same thing, in recapitulation
 - (a) V.3= 7:4a & 6a
 - (b) V.4= 7:4b & 6b
 - iii. All of this again confirms the parenthesis of Rom ch 6-7
 - a) Notice how Paul continued to make mention of main doctrine during the parenthesis

II. Specific

A) Rom 8:3- Expounding on v.2 and the “law”

1. What the Law could not do
2. Why it could not do it
3. How God addressed this problem
4. The result of His doing so

B) “What the law could not do”- It cannot justify man

1. “Cannot do”- it cannot sanctify man either, but that isn’t the context of Rom 8:1-4
 - i. Paul is not saying the law could not give man victory over the law of sin that is in his members (sanctify)
2. “Condemned”- in v.3 is the same as in v.1 (“punish”)

- i. Paul is not saying the law could not condemn sin in the flesh, it does
 - a) Law does nothing but condemn
- 3. “For sin”- as a sacrifice for, payment for sin
- 4. “Through the flesh”- The law’s inability to justify is due to the “flesh” of fallen man
 - i. The law cannot fulfill God’s demands of righteousness through us, God sent His Own Son to do it
- 5. “Own Son”- Only begotten, not created not adopted
 - i. This is crucial to understanding this passage
 - a) God alone is truly righteous, and therefore must by nature demand/require/expect righteousness
 - 1) The law does 2 things in this regard:
 - (a) It shows God’s nature and requirement
 - (b) It punishes all failures to perform righteousness
 - b) God’s righteousness never changes, it can’t, and therefore neither can the standard He requires be changed
 - 1) We cannot stand before God by forgiveness alone, we must possess positive righteousness
 - (a) Thus Christ must in the flesh:
 - (1) Fulfill the righteousness the law demands
 - (2) Atonement for the failure of God’s people to do so themselves
 - (b) Rom 8:3- negative guilt
 - (c) Rom 8:4- Positive righteousness
- 6. “In us”- Thus v.4 shows how God will do and go on doing this
 - i. “In” doesn’t just mean pertaining to us, or concerning us
 - ii. This is about our “walking” or our “imparted righteousness”
 - a) Then from V.5-29 Paul enters into the doctrine of sanctification

III. Practical righteousness- the teaching of the New Testament everywhere, and especially in this Roman epistle:

- A) Rom 1:17- “Righteousness revealed from faith to faith”
 - 1. Not “forgiveness revealed....”
- B) Rom 3:21- Righteousness apart from law
 - 1. By faith and not by works as the Jews tried (9:30-10:4)
- C) Rom 5:17- “Reigning by righteousness” (overcoming sin)
- D) Rom 5:18- “Justification of life” (holy living in Christ)
- E) Rom 5:19- “Made righteous” (not only accounted so)
- F) Rom 5:21- “Grace reigns through righteousness” (as death reigns over the lost life)
- G) Rom 6:13- “Yield your members instruments of righteousness” (members live on)

- H) Rom 6:18- Servants of righteousness” (our reasonable service)
- I) Rom 6:19- “Servants to righteousness unto holiness” (process of sanctification)
- J) Rom 6:20- “Were free from righteousness” (could produce no fruit)
- K) Rom 7:4- Dead so that we can “be married to another and bear fruit”
- L) Rom 7:6- “Serve in newness of life”
 - 1. Gal 3:13-14- Freed from law in order to receive the Spirit to be fruitful
 - i. This was by means of the “olive press” of Gethsemane
 - 2. Gal 3:21- “If there had been a law which could have given LIFE”
 - i. Not simply forgiveness, but LIFE (right Christian living)
 - ii. John 3:16- Shall not perish, but have everlasting LIFE
 - a) Righteousness = LIFE