

The Seal of the Spirit (Rom 8:11)

- Remember that the context of this section is the full assurance of the believer

- I. Heb 7:25- Saved to the uttermost (full salvation)
 - A) 1 John 3:8- Christ came to destroy the works of the devil
 - 1. But salvation is not only in the past tense, it is an eternal salvation
 - 2. Thus in Rom 8:10 we find the Christian as we now are in this world
 - i. In Rom 8:11 we find the Christian as we shall be

- II. Rom 8:11
 - A) Negative
 - 1. Not “moral resurrection” as so many (including Calvin) teach
 - i. There is an ongoing sanctification or “moral resurrection” in the life of the believer, but that is not in the context here
 - a) Rom 8:5-8- covers that
 - ii. Christ needed no “moral resurrection”
 - a) Whatever is true of us in this passage must also be true of Christ
 - 2. Not “faith healing” as the Charismatics try to prove from this verse
 - i. They teach that to “quicken the mortal body” is to heal it of infirmity
 - a) This is certainly not the context here in Rom 8
 - b) The body “is dead” and not “sick”
 - c) Christ wasn’t raised from sickness, but was raised from the grave
 - ii. They teach that “healing is in the atonement”
 - a) They say this means that atonement covers all the affects of sin at once and for all
 - 1) Rom 6:23- Death is an effect of sin, therefore if they are correct, the believer should never suffer physical death
 - 2) Rom 8:18-24- Proves the “at once” claim they make is false

 - B) Positive
 - 1. This passage is referring to bodily resurrection (not simply resuscitation either)
 - i. Because what is meant must match what is said of the Lord Jesus Christ here (2x’s)
 - ii. Because “dwelling in you” refers to the body (1 Cor 6:19)
 - iii. Because resurrection completes the work of the Godhead and is the climax of salvation
 - a) 8:9-11- Father and Holy Spirit credited in Son’s in resurrection
 - b) John 6:40- Son credited with resurrection

- c) John 10:17-18- Son credited with His Own resurrection
 - 1) This subject was the cause of the Great Schism in 1054ad
- iv. Because bodily resurrection is the hope of the saints
 - a) Rom 8:22-25- Hope of resurrection
 - b) Acts 23:6, 24:15, 26:6-7, 28:20
 - c) Rev 6:9-11- Still the hope of the saints in heaven (Rev 20:1-9)
- v. Because the word translated “quicken” is not the same as in “raised up”
 - a) Quicken- “to make fully alive”
 - 1) But our mortal bodies are already physically alive
 - 2) One generation of saints will not die physically
 - (a) 1 Cor 15:50-52- But we will all be “changed”
 - (b) Our mortal sin-weakened bodies will be changed fully and be controlled and constituted by the Spirit
 - (1) 1 John 3:1-2- We will be like Christ
 - (2) Phil 3:20- He will change our vile bodies like unto His

III. Doctrine

- A) Why does Paul put this the way he does, and not more plainly concerning the resurrection of the body?
 - 1. Because the context is “assurance” and this is what he is aiming to show
 - 2. The assurance of the believer is based on the fact that the Spirit of God is dwelling in us!
 - i. Eph 1:13-14- Seal, earnest, guarantee
 - a) Paul proves this in Eph 1:18-21
 - ii. Ezek 37:1-14- The valley of dry bones must have the Spirit to live
 - iii. Matt 25:1-13- Those with the Spirit and those without
 - iv. Matt 12:17-21- Christ will not deny the Spirit in any portion
- B) Phil 1:6- God is a perfectionist
 - 1. Rom 8:23- Redemption is incomplete without resurrection
 - i. “First-fruits” of the Spirit prove full manifestation to come
 - a) If God sent His Spirit to dwell in imperfect flesh, it can’t remain so, it must be for a purpose
 - b) God did not simply return the spirit of “Adam” to man
 - c) 1 Cor 15:43- Sown in dishonor, raised in glory
 - 1) Rom 8:29-30- “Glorified” must match the Son