

Children and Heirs of God

Rom 8.10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 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, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

* **If you wanted** assign a title to Romans 8, it would be

“The _____ of the Christian Life.”

* **So far, Paul** has set before us the glory of the fact that our salvation in Christ doesn’t simply involve being _____ of sin. It also involves being being rescued out of a hellish _____ & delivered into a glorious _____, and being rescued from an evil ruling power and placed under a good ruling power.

Col 1.13 [The Father] has rescued us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of his love.

Rom 8.2 For the law [i.e., the ruling power and authority] of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law [i.e., the ruling power and authority] of sin and death.

* **Today, Paul** sets before us two more glories: (1) The glory of the _____ God has placed us on in this life, for it is a path that leads to glorified life in the _____ (vs 11).

(2) The glory of who God has made us in Christ, for God has taken us from being slaves and made us his own _____ and _____ (vs 15-17).

* **The Christian** life is a path of _____ that ends in greatest _____, but it doesn’t always seem that way along the path.

Remember the children of Israel in the _____. God was leading them on a path of glory that led to greater glory. But it didn’t always seem that way along the path. The key was for them to remember what was objectively _____, not the way things appeared in the moment. That’s exactly what Paul is telling us in our text today.

* **We have bodies** that are still subject to infirmity, decay, and will ultimately _____ (vs 10). We have to remember what is objectively true: (1) “Christ is in [us]” by the _____ (vs 10); (2) “He who raised Christ ... will also give life to [our] mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in [us]” (vs 11). The fact that the Spirit has made us his home is the _____ that we will experience the glory of resurrection life.

Eph 1.13 ... you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance redemption of the purchased possession ...

* **We may be** a big time _____ when the Spirit first moves in, but he’s not going to leave us that way.

* **One of the** biggest challenges for the Israelites was realizing that they were no longer _____ of Pharaoh, but _____ of God.

Deut 8.5 You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.

* **They didn’t** owe Pharaoh _____; they owed God _____, for he made them his own children & heirs.

So we don't owe sin ("the flesh") _____; we owe God _____ (vs 12, 15-17).

* **The path of** continued sin, of continuing in their old life, was a path back to _____. Even so, the path of continued sin for us is a path back to _____ (vs 13).

* **We are not** debtors to sin ("the flesh"), because sin pays us a _____; it pays us exactly what we have earned, which is _____. We are debtors to God even though what he has given us is a _____. We owe God what children owe a loving _____ who has adopted them and made them his _____.

Mat 22.37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Heb 13.15 Through [Christ] ... let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to his name.

Eph 5.20 ... giving] thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ."