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CHRISTCHURCH, The Grove, Ilkley

Online@9 – Sunday 13 July 2008

**‘Life in the Spirit!’**

### **Romans 8 : 1 - 11**

<sup>1</sup> There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like man’s sinful nature, to do away with sin. <sup>4</sup> God did this so that the righteous demands of the Law might be fully satisfied in us who live according to the Spirit, and not according to human nature. <sup>5</sup> Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. <sup>6</sup> To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup> And so a person becomes an enemy of God when he is controlled by his human nature; for he does not obey God’s law, and in fact he cannot obey it. <sup>8</sup> Those who obey their human nature cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead you live as the Spirit tells you to - if, in fact, God’s Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.

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1. Paul contrasts life ‘according to human nature’ and ‘life according to the Spirit.’ How does the Holy Spirit fit into God’s Big Story in the Bible? What is the Law that Paul refers to?

The Bible spans from the Fall, Abraham who lived by Faith, Moses who received the Law, Jesus who came to bring a New Commandment and our future hope of everlasting life in a new heaven and a new earth. The Spirit is present throughout. The Spirit replaces the Law which was a human construct around the God-given ten commandments to try and enable us to live Godly lives.

2. What are the consequences of living life ‘according to the Law’ and why?

Sin and death (v2 and 6). Minds controlled by human nature (v5). We fall short as we are human, sinful and not perfect so the Law condemns us. God sent Jesus to be Sin for us.

3. If we live by the Spirit what are we promised?

No condemnation (v1). Set free from sin and death (v2). We belong to Christ (inferred from v9). Our minds are controlled by what the Spirit wants (v5). Our mortal bodies will receive life through the presence of the Spirit in us (both now and eternally)

4. Thinking back to the Parable of the Sower what type of ‘ground’ are you to receive the ‘seeds’ of the Spirit? Do you need ‘fertilizing’? What ‘fruits’ might you expect if you allow the Spirit to dwell in us?

### **A Prayer of Commitment**

Lord Jesus Christ

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life.

Please forgive me.

I now turn from everything which I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you now offer me this gift of forgiveness and your Spirit. I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen

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