

THE LAW IS SPIRITUAL; BUT I AM UNSPIRITUAL*PSALM 145:8-14 // ROMANS 7:14-25***MONDAY 7/10/23**

Psalm 145:8-14/// 8 The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Romans 7:14-25// 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate, I do.

RELECTION As a regenerated person of Christ I know full well the remnants of my flesh are opposite to the Law. Yet, the Spirit that has regenerated me makes me want to obey God. There is no greater divide than between the flesh and spirit. There is no agreement between the natural sinful person and being spiritually connected to God. People are carnal and there is no agreement with Christ. None! It can be compared to the difference between light and darkness. The Law is spiritual in the sense when we hear it, it tells us about the righteousness of God. We, by our nature are corrupt. We can only taste earthly matters as a brutish animal. The Spirit, on the others hand, renews our sluggish nature. God's Spirit comes to us in hearing the Word. We learn we are fallen from grace and made in His own image. This conflict between the old and the new life in Christ is the miraculous gift of the Spirit. St Paul tells us that one who is regenerated by the Spirit sees clearly the disagreement between purity of the Law of God and the sinful nature. Our destructive behavior is prevalent and we have little strength to make us more loving. We repeat patterns of past broken relationships one way or another. Innately we seek God's forgiveness and love and pray for a new start in life. That is exactly what the Divine grace of Christ does. The Spirit of God, even though we are corrupt, invites us to Christ. He paid the ransom for sin, so sin no longer holds us captive. We know the Law produces death, and sin causes us to fear and worry. But in Christ we are granted new life, a real life. Our regenerated hearts give us a second chance to live afresh. Gal 5:17 17 "For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[c] you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

PRAYER Lord I find comfort knowing that Paul too, suffered from the same weakness as I do. With your help I will continue to look to the Word and be guided by the Spirit to do what the Spirit desires for me to do. And that is to love you with my heart, mind and soul. In Jesus Name Amen.

TUESDAY 7/11/23

Psalm 145:8-14/// 9 The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Romans 7:14-25// 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

RELECTION When we do what we do not want to do we are agreeing with God's Law. We should be delighted in the Law's wisdom and way to righteousness, but we are not. The Law points to just how far we miss the mark. The war in our flesh fights against God's authority. We want to live life our way and therefore by our human nature interpret the Bible our way. A sign we desire a relationship with God is when we break the Law and experience unpleasant feelings of shame, guilt and embracement. Yet, we have the opportunity to admit and confess we have sinned. The ungodly do not confess, nor do they make an attempt to constrain themselves of illicit behaviors. In doing so they show disdain for God. They outwardly express their alienation from the righteousness of God. Secular people express their freedom by doing whatever they please. Not taking into consideration how it might affect others. Children of God are called to constrain themselves from personal desire and create an environment of peace and compassion. When we break the Law by lying and cheating we almost immediately want to repent. We wish nothing more than to make our way up to heaven and plead forgiveness. It is important to remember, even though we still sin, we are exempt from its punishment by faith in Christ. The sin that lives in us is a part of our soul. The difference between our flesh and spirit is when a person is "born anew" their spirit is regenerated by the Holy Spirit. I do not know any Christian who wants to sin. God's Law has been engraved upon our hearts and minds. Jeremiah 31:33-34 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

PRAYER Dear Lord my flesh betrays me and I pray you help me to keep my focus on your love for and not on myself. In Jesus Name Amen

WEDNESDAY 7/12/23

Psalm 145:8-14/// 10 All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you.

Romans 7:14-25// 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

REFLECTION When we admit we are criminals before God we acknowledge our depravity. As children of the flesh we find no real good in us. Luke 18:“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone”. Like

St Paul, we as “new born children” have a new longing to do what God desires for us. This longing is the effect of God’s grace upon us. The term flesh is translated to mean all that is human in nature. The Spirit connects with our soul. Now both the flesh and spirit belong to the soul. The Spirit of God communicates to our soul with the true reality of God’s Kingdom. For this to happen a person must first encounter and then engage Jesus Christ. To have this occur the Spirit opens our eyes and ears to God’s Word and there we find truth. Jesus is so very clear about God’s activities. John 3:3 “Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” Our soul has been re-formed, and purified from corruption. As “new children” of God we now reflect Christ’s image of grace within our relationship with others. We become the sacred among the secular. Our souls are re-formed by God once again, as before the “Fall” of Adam. The work of Christ did not physically cut away the sin of our flesh which still hinders us from having faith. We still walk with a limp and stumble but we get up again and again. Our “new willingness” to grow in faith is the Holy Spirit forfeiting our



souls to aspire to love and obey God. Our “new nature” is clearly distinguished from “the old nature.” There is still a clear reality; the “inward man,” is constantly reforming the “outward man,” St Paul writes in 2 Cor. 4:16 “That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day.”

PRAYER In you my Lord Jesus I recognize my humanness and see that my flaws show me who I am and who you are. May I never become lazy in keeping my focus on your grace and how it leads me. In Jesus Name Amen.

THURSDAY 7/13/23

Psalm 145:8-14/// 11 They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, 12 So that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Romans 7:14-25// 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

REFLECTION Psalm 145 refers to the children of God who share the good news of God’s loving Kingdom. Each day we live with the conflict between our “old flesh” and our “new spirit. I too say to myself, “I do not do the good I want to do”. This does not mean we are powerless to our desires, but we will act according to the stronger of our wills. My flesh hinders me from doing what my spirit desires. As soon as I set a goal to walk with Jesus, I find my flesh making all sorts of excuses not to. Who will help me stand firm and thwart the surrounding dark? Certainly not my flesh. Our sinful flesh not only hinders our ability to have faith, but the activities of the natural world create all sorts of obstacles that hinder us from deepening our trust of God. . The “will of our flesh” and “will of our spirit” will always be at odds until we die. For a little while we can actively praise the Lord for our “new life”. When living Word of God shined upon us we are made new. We discover this ancient text guides and shows us how to participate with God our creator. This “new life” journey teaches us to love and obey God, ourselves and others. St. Paul found he did not do the good which he desired. In all of life we are to remain faithful to Christ no matter how right or how wrong we might act. Our salvation does not rely on our weakness but solely on Christ and His grace. Even our best works are still stained with sin. We have been restored to health by the work of our heavenly Physician, who purges us and grants us pure integrity of our nature. The law of God brings only death. The grace of God in Christ brings life. What kind of life do you desire?

PRAYER Who am I kidding Lord Jesus, I say I want to be pure in thought but yet I continue to walk in my own way. Only with your help can I have the hope of living by God’s grace. In Jesus Name Amen.

FRIDAY 7/14/23

Psalms 145:8-14/// 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. 13 The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

Romans 7:14-25// 21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

REFLECTION It might be a shock to you; the truth about sin is we like to do it. It gives us self-gratification for a short time, but not long lasting. However, sooner or later, our caustic sin catches up with us. It always leaves nasty physical and spiritual scars. What are we to do? First know the Law of God originally calls us to righteousness. The Law is our teacher and guide, which informs us we have sinned. Adam and Eve both originally had the full capacity to live a life right before God. But when they desired to be wise like God, sin came into the world. From that moment on humanity lost our physical and spiritual connection to God. Life changed so dramatically we run from the presence of God. Sometime later Adam and Eve experienced firsthand the curse of death as a result of their sin. Their much loved sons, Cain and Able, fought each other. Cain killed his brother in a fit of jealousy and it was the first murder in world history". The Law forms the rules of the contest in the two parts of our souls; our inner battler spirit against the flesh. This is what St Augustine called the "Christian struggle". The Law calls us to the rule of righteousness but the tyrannical law of Satan provokes us to wickedness. Praise the Lord, Christ's Spirit never stops leading us back home. Before being "born from above" we are bound and captive by our flesh alone. These are the inward battles of our souls. 2 Cor 4:16-17 "That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"

PRAYER Heavenly Father your kingdom is everlasting and your dominion endures through all generations. Praise you Lord Jesus for bringing me into the everlasting Kingdom, In Jesus Name Amen.

SATURDAY 7/15/23

Psalms 145:8-14/// 14 The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

Romans 7:14-25// 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

RELECTION There is no more powerful driving force than to be loved and accepted. We all desire to share our life with someone. A soul mate just like the one Adam and Eve had before the Fall. Let's be honest for a moment and face the struggles we have with our flesh especially when it comes to our relationships with each other. I groan inwardly as I remember a very long time ago I had no hope of finding a soul mate. For some reason, I felt I knew I was a great disappointment to God if I could not find the right mate. That all changed of course when I met Christ and was touched by His love for me. This union with God's love did not instantly cure me from the bondage of my flesh. It took time for me to accept God's grace. St Paul knows what this state is about when he used the word "rescue". He, like me, and maybe you too, had been liberated by Christ and this is no ordinary exercise of divine power. This is the ultimate power of God's grace, which is designed to bring us back home where we belong. We have been rescued from death. Think about that; we are rescued from eternal suffering. The study this week is meant to teach us how, why and by whom our eyes and ears have been opened to God. The saddest part of being stripped of God's spiritual excellency is the loss of a complete soul. Gen 6:3 Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years." We were stripped of our power to live with God in glory forever. Instead we became like the brutish animals roaming the earth trying desperately to survive. These final verses show us just how sin has beaten out of us all the glory of God. As long as we remain in the flesh we will be exposed to this misery and subject to death. These truths are meant to give us pause and mourn for our lost home. St. Paul seems to be bitter and longs for his departure home. Even though we do not yet enjoy the full promises of heaven, we must be content with the measure of joy God's grace gives us now.

PRAYER Thank you Lord Jesus for upholding me and granting me forgiveness. I bow down to you and thank you for my life, even my death, but most of all I thank you for my resurrection to new life. In Jesus Name Amen.



PSALM 145:8-14 // ROMANS 7:14-25

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