

Romans 8:1-14 • In Christ Vs In Flesh

Paul tells us that we have been set free from sin. He also says that there is a war being waged. As a Christian, sin continues to attempt to take us captive by appealing to our passions.

Good News: If you are in Christ you are not in the flesh. If you are in Christ you will never again be in the flesh.

Jesus came to pay the penalty for our sins (justification). He also came to save us from our sins.

Matthew 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will **save** his people from their **sins**.”

My aim this morning is to argue that Jesus means of saving us from our sins is by Him increasingly and progressively becoming our treasure.

Romans 4:4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due.

1Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and **the power of sin is the law**.

Colossians 2:18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

Colossians 2:19 and not holding fast to the Head, **from whom the whole body, nourished** and knit together through its joints and ligaments, **grows with a growth that is from God**.

Colossians 2:20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

Colossians 2:21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch”

Colossians 2:22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings?

Colossians 2:23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, **but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.**

“The Christian community is largely a performance-based culture today. And the more deeply committed we are to following Jesus, the more deeply ingrained the performance mindset is. We think we earn God's blessing or forfeit it by how well we live the Christian life.”

“For committed Christians, the baseline is much higher. It includes regular practice of spiritual disciplines, obedience to God's Word, and involvement in some form of ministry. Here again, if we focus on outward behavior, many score fairly well. But these Christians are even more vulnerable to self-righteousness, for they can look down their spiritual noses not only at the sinful society around them but even at other believers who are not as committed as they are. These Christians don't need the gospel either. For them, Christian growth means more discipline and more commitment.”

“Then there is a another group. The baseline of this group includes more than the outward performance of disciplines, obedience, and ministry. These Christians also recognize the need to deal with sins of the heart like a critical spirit, pride, selfishness, envy, resentment, and anxiety. They see their inconsistency in having their quiet times, their failure to witness at every opportunity, and their frequent failures in dealing with sins of the heart. This group of Christians is far more likely to be plagued by a sense of guilt because group members have not met their own expectations. And because they think God's acceptance of them is based on their performance, they have little joy in their Christian lives. For them, life is like a treadmill on which they keep slipping farther and farther behind. This group needs the gospel, but they don't realize it is for them.”

Jerry Bridges

Romans 1:7 To all those in Rome who are **loved by God** and **called to be saints**:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:15 So I am eager to preach **the gospel to you** also who are in Rome.

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the **gospel, for it is the power of God** for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been **justified by faith**, we have **peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Romans 5:5 and hope does not put us to shame, because **God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us**.

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled to God by the death of his Son**, much more, now that we are reconciled, **shall we be saved by his life**.

Romans 7:4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that **you may belong to another**, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order that we may bear fruit for God**.

Romans 7:5 For while we **were living in the flesh**, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

Romans 7:6 But now we are **released from the law**, having died to that which held us **captive**, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code**.

1Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin, and the **power of sin is the law**.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

Romans 7:23 but I see in **my members** another law **waging war** against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

Romans 7:24 Wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?**

Romans 7:25 **Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**.

Romans 8:2 For the law of **the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus** from the law of sin and death.

If I am Christ there is no condemnation for me. If I am in Christ the Spirit has set me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For **God has done what the law**, weakened by the flesh, **could not do**. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and **for sin**, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Romans 8:4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, **who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**.

Romans 8:5 For those **who live according to the flesh** set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who **live according to the Spirit** set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is **life and peace**.

Romans 8:7 **For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot**.

Romans 8:8 Those who are in the flesh **cannot please God**.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness** and **unrighteousness** of men, who **by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.**

Romans 1:19 For **what can be known about God** is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:21 For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became **futile in their thinking**, and their **foolish hearts were darkened.**

Romans 1:22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

Romans 1:23 and **exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images** resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:24 Therefore God gave them up in the **lusts** (*desire*) **of their hearts** to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

Romans 1:25 **because they exchanged the truth about God** for a lie and **worshiped** and **served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Romans 1:26 **For this reason** God gave them up to dishonorable **passions...**

Romans 1:28 And since they did not see **fit** (deem worthy) **to acknowledge God**, God gave them up to a **debased mind** to do what ought not to be done.

Romans 3:10 as it is written: **“None is righteous, no, not one;**

Romans 3:11 no one understands; no one seeks for God.

Romans 3:12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:23 for all have **sinned** and fall short of the **glory of God**,

Romans 8:9 You, however, **are not in the flesh** but **in the Spirit**, if in fact the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him**.

Romans 7:5 For while we **were living in the flesh**, our sinful passions, **aroused by the law**, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.

Romans 7:6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

Ephesians 2:1 And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins

Ephesians 2:2 in which you **once walked**, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

Ephesians 2:3 among whom we all **once lived** in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Ezekiel 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

Ezekiel 36:26 And I will give you a **new heart**, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh**.

Matthew 6:19 “Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures** on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

Matthew 6:20 but lay up for yourselves **treasures** in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Matthew 6:21 For where your **treasure** is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure** hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his **joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

Matthew 26:15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him **thirty pieces of silver.**

Philippians 3:8 Indeed, **I count everything as loss** because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and **count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ**

God does not need us to bring him glory for his sake. He wants us to see his glory to save us from being held captive by the glory of lesser things.

1Corinthians 13:12 For now **we see in a mirror dimly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1John 2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1John 3:2 Beloved, we are God’s children now, and **what we will be** has not yet appeared; but **we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.**