



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG
METHODIST CHURCH



SERMON

*-Set.
Free.*

Romans 8:1-17

GOH POH GAIK

12 SEPTEMBER 2021



set free
Romans 8:1-17

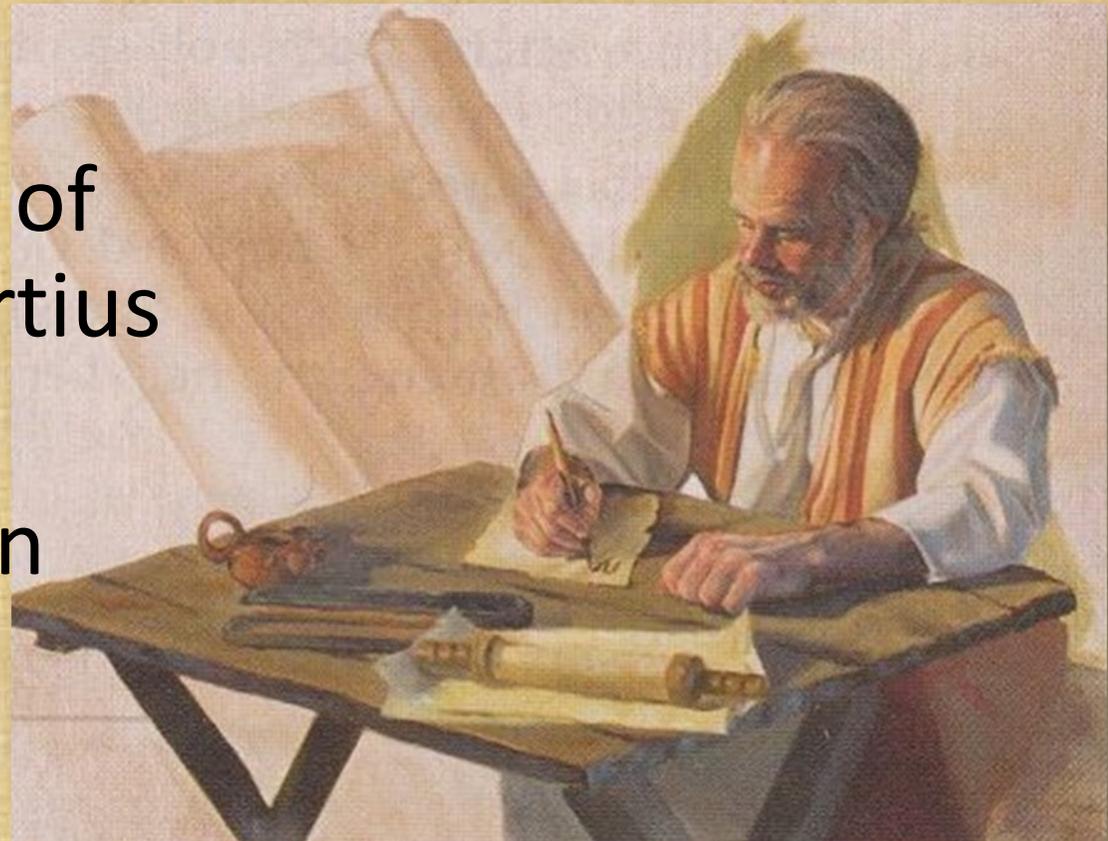


The Book of Romans

“the fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament” (John Stott)

Who ?

- The Apostle Paul, formerly Saul of Tarsus, dictated the letter to Tertius who wrote down the letter
- Phoebe, servant of the church in Cenchrea carried the letter to Rome





Where ?
Corinth or Cenchrea

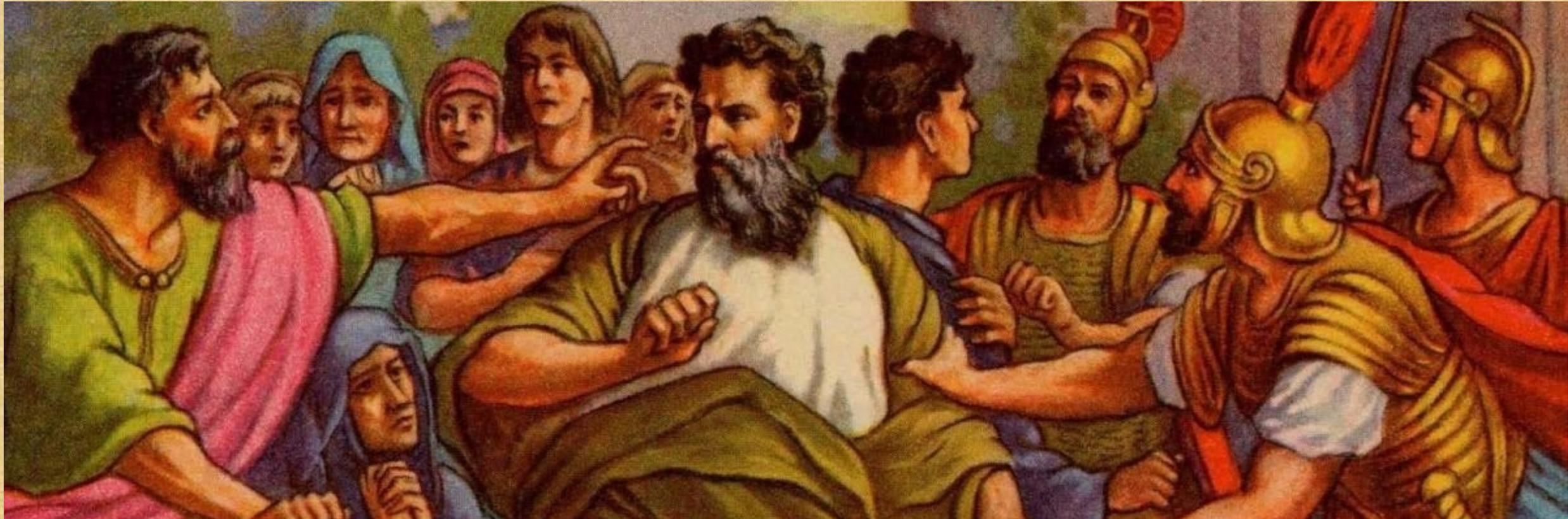
When ?
Early Spring on his
3rd missionary journey,
on the way to deliver
contributions from the
Gentile Christians for
the poor among the
believers in Jerusalem.



To Whom ?



The church in Rome (a mix of Jewish and Gentile believers, with Gentiles in the majority)





To Whom ?



The church in Rome (a mix of Jewish and Gentile believers, with Gentiles in the majority)

Why ?



Paul wrote to bring peace/reconciliation between the Jewish & Gentile believers.

Jewish Christians - proud of their favoured status as God's chosen people

Gentile Christians - proud of their freedom in Christ/exclusion of Jewish believers?



SET FREE (Rom 8:1-17)

1. **Set free from** the law of sin and death
to obey the righteous requirements of the law (1-4)
2. **Set free from** living according to the sinful nature
to living according to the Spirit (5-14)
3. **Set free from** being
a slave to fear **to being**
a son in an Abba
– child relationship
(15-17)



SET FREE



1. Set Free (1-4)

from the law (power) of sin and death

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.



SET FREE

1. Set Free (1-4)

from the law (power) of sin and death
(note: curious switch of pronouns)



*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for **those** who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law (power) of the Spirit of life set **me** free from the law of sin and death (1,2)*

- Paul's exultant personal testimony!

SET FREE



1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)

*Here is a trustworthy saying
that deserves full acceptance:*

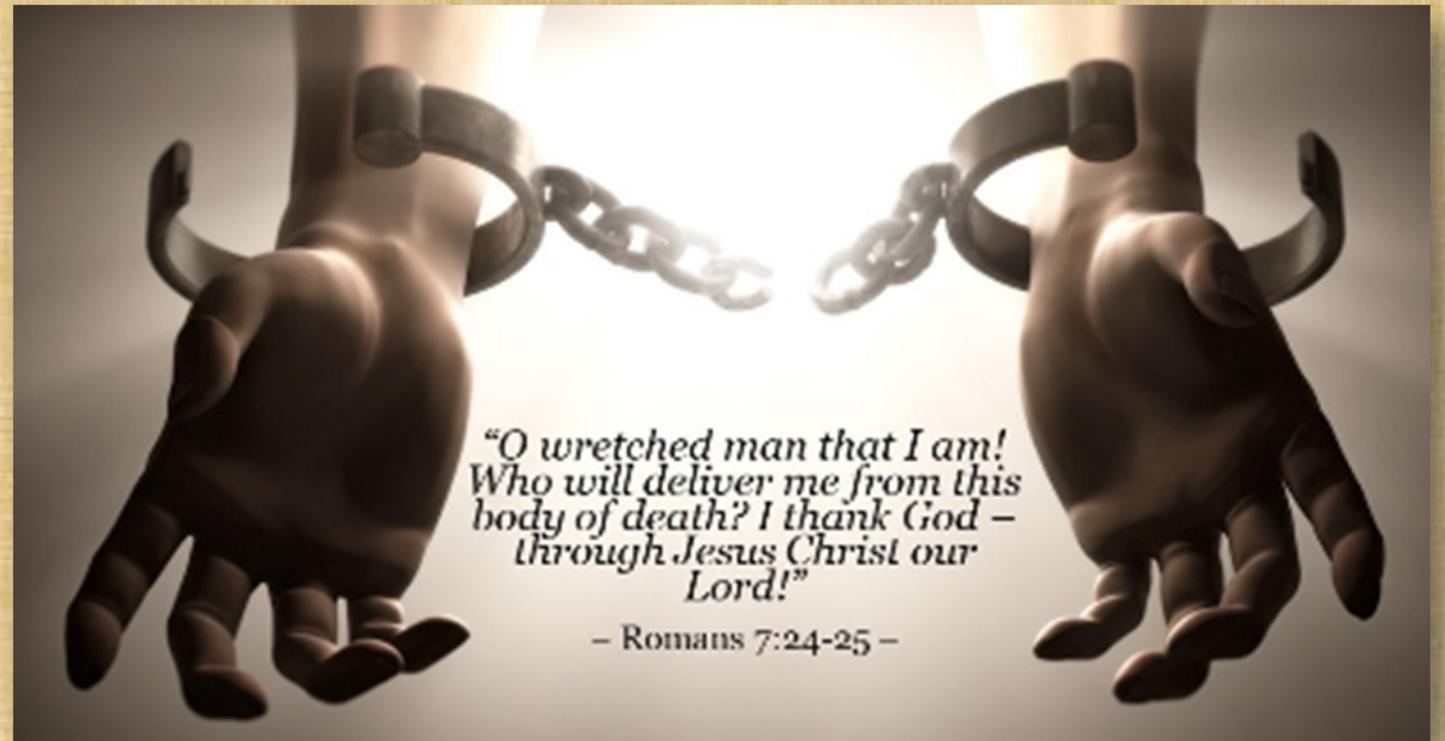
***Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners –
of whom I am the worst.***





Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. (Rom 5:12)

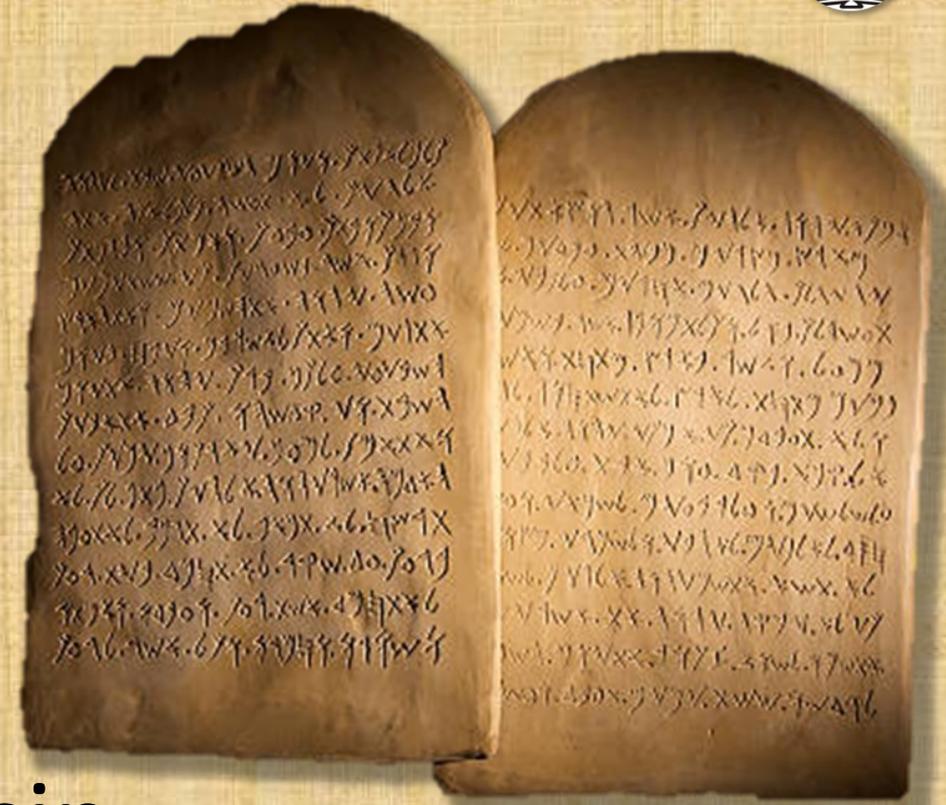
- a waging war
- a prisoner
- a wretched man
(Rom 7:22-24)





The law could not set us free

- it pointed out our sin
- it pronounced judgment
- it had no power to remove sin
- it had no power to set us free from sin's dominion





What the law could not do, GOD DID! (Rom 8:2,3)

- † God sent His own Son
- † Christ, sinless and righteous, came in the likeness of man to be the sin offering (Rom 5:8)
- † Christ took upon Him the judgment and condemnation of sin
- † Christ paid the penalty of sin for us

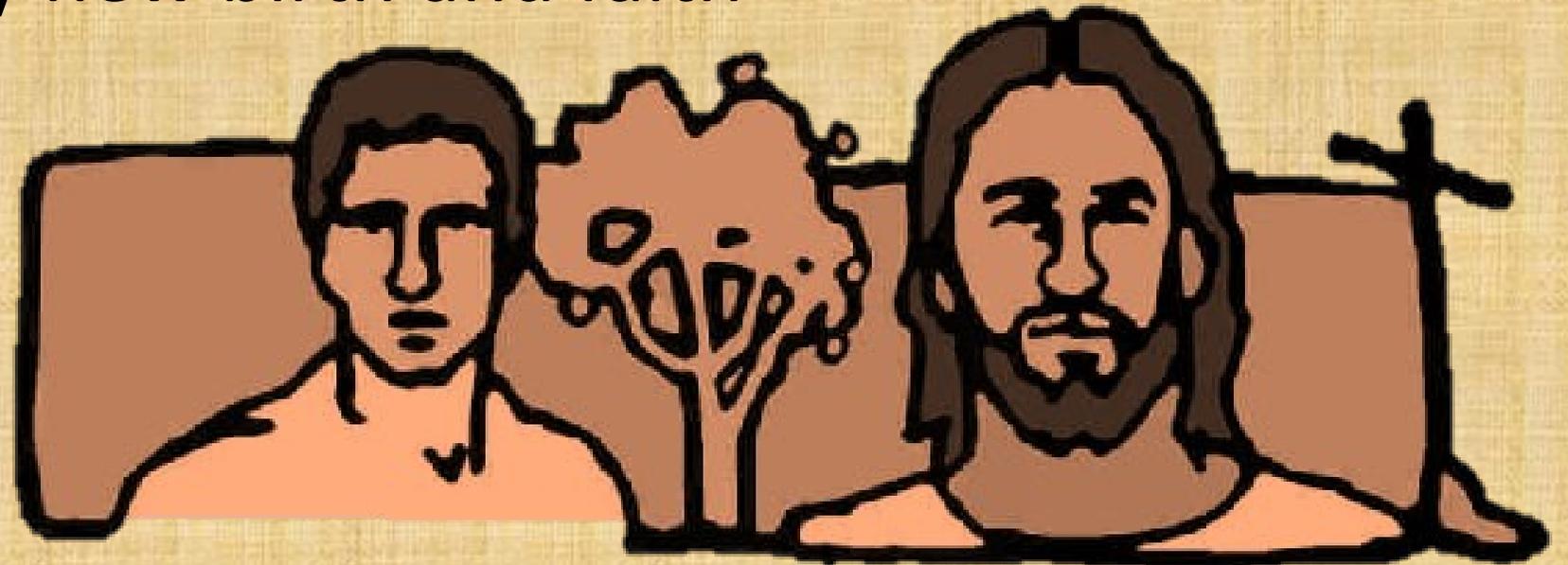




Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Through Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit has set **me (us)** free from the power of sin and death.

- in Adam by birth
- in Christ Jesus by new birth and faith



Set Free



to obey the righteous requirements of the law

- ✓ obey out of love for God
- ✓ enabled by the power of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ fulfillment of God's prophecy
in Jeremiah 31:33-34



"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord.

"I will put My law in their minds and write it upon their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people...

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jer 31:33,34b)



Reflection

- 1. How ready am I with a 1st person testimony on my lips?*
- 2. How has being set free from condemnation and the power of sin and death changed my life?*



2. Set Free (5-14)

from living according to the sinful nature



5-8: Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God.

It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.





2. Set Free (5-14)

from living according to the sinful nature

- mind set on what that nature desires (5)
- leads to death – judgment (6)
- is hostile to God – antagonistic, at enmity
- does not submit to God's law – rebellious (7)
- cannot please God (8)



2. Set Free (5-14)



from living according to the sinful nature

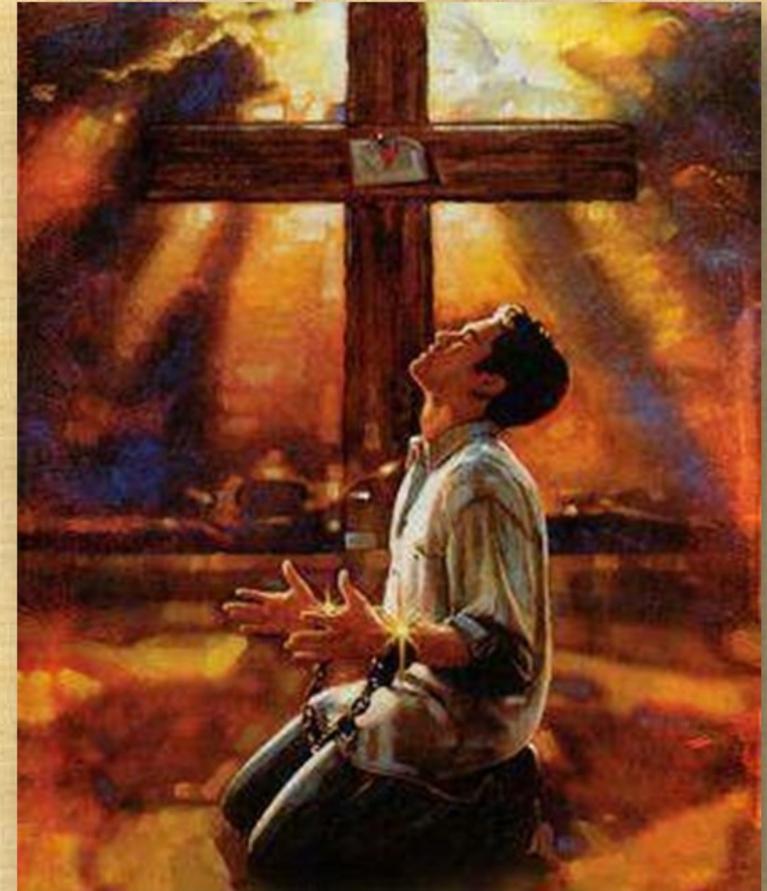
9-11: You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.

And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

(continue...)





2. Set Free (5-14)

from living according to the sinful nature

12-14: Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.



2. Set Free (5-14)

from living according to the sinful nature

- mind set on what that nature desires (5)
- leads to death – judgment (6)
- is hostile to God - antagonistic, at enmity
- does not submit to God's law – rebellious (7)
- cannot please God (8)

to living according to the Spirit

- mind set on what the Spirit desires (5)
- leads to life and peace (6)
- alive to God, spiritual realities (8)
- submits to God's law (8)





- indwelling Holy Spirit assurance (9)
- resurrection assurance (11)
- an obligation to live according to the Spirit (12; 6:12,13)

SANCTIFICATION

The progressive, increasing work of the Holy Spirit that goes on in us, bringing us more and more into the image (likeness) of Jesus Christ.

(Martyn Lloyd-Jones)





*It is no good giving me a play like Hamlet or King Lear,
and telling me to write a play like that.*

Shakespeare could do it; I can't.

*And it is no good showing me a life like the life of Jesus
and telling me to live a life like that.*

Jesus could do it; I can't.

*But if the genius of Shakespeare
could come and live in me,
then I could write plays like his.*

***And if the Spirit of Jesus
could come and live in me;
then I could live a life like His.***

*(William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury
quoted by John Stott in The Radical Disciple)*



Sanctification



1. The Word of God

Read. Study. Memorise

*Sanctify them by the truth;
Your Word is truth (John 17:17)*

2. The Holy Spirit

Obey. Confess. Receive forgiveness. Move on.

3. Family members and friends help!

4. My sanctification is in God's hands

*... being confident of this that He who began a good work in you
will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

(Phil 1:6)





Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house.





Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house.

At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing.

He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof

and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing

and so you are not surprised.

But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way

that hurts abominably and doesn't seem to make any sense.

What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building

quite a different house from the one you thought of -

you thought you were being made into a decent little cottage:

But He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in It Himself.

(C.S. Lewis)



Reflection

Which particular area (s) in my character/conduct is the Holy Spirit 'knocking about' to develop Christlikeness in me?



SET FREE



3. Set Free (15-17)

from being a slave to fear

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.

And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,

if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.





3. Set Free (15-17)

- from being a slave to fear
- fear of God as Judge
- to being a son in an Abba
 - child relationship
 - to receive the 'spirit of sonship' is to receive adoption
 - Ancient Rome/Malaysia
 - full privileges of sonship in God's family
 - a close, loving relationship with our Heavenly Father
 - Abba Father is an endearing family word
 - the Holy Spirit bears witness to our relationship to Christ

SONSHIP





‘a very special form or type of assurance...conveying a profound feeling of security in our Father’s love’ (Martyn Lloyd - Jones)

- We are heirs of God, coheirs with Christ
(1 Pet 1:4; Titus 3:7)
- We share His sufferings

Reflection

*The next time you call out Abba Father!
in prayer, PAUSE and cherish
the testimony of the Holy Spirit
with your spirit that you are a child of God.*





set free
Romans 8:1-17