

Romans 8:26~27

In this section, Paul reveals the “*great mystery*” of Christ, how He saves us from Sin! It speaks to His role as *SAVIOR*. It speaks to the “*inner workings*” of the Spirit of God, setting us free from Sin. It speaks to how lives are truly changed, not just externally changed by adherence to the Law, but lives that are changed from the inside out...by the working of the Spirit of God inside the human heart!

Paul says in verse 24...²⁴*For we are saved by hope...* We are being delivered from Sin by trusting in the Spirit of God, by looking to Christ for help. It is here in this section, that Paul really defines what it means to “*live by faith!*” Which may well be one of the most important sections thus far... Because as Paul has made it abundantly clear, “*The Just shall LIVE by FAITH...*”

²⁴*For we are saved by hope...* The word *SOZO*...is a very beautiful word. It carries several meanings. It means to heal... We are *healed* by looking to Christ... That which is “*broken*” is mended. That which is “*bruised*” is made well.

It means to make whole... We are *restored, made whole* by looking to Christ... That which is *lacking* is made full. That which *suffers loss*...is restored. (Jn. 5, Jesus asked the man... *Wilt thou be made whole?*)

It means to deliver... We are *delivered* by looking to Christ! That which *held captive*, is set free. Those who are in bondage, the chains are broken.

Beloved...we are saved *by looking to Christ!*

- If the *wounds* inflicted by sin...are to be healed...
- If *broken lives* by sin...are to be mended...
- If those *held captive* by sin...are to be set free...

It will be by looking to Christ...and Christ alone!

There's a debate among scholar's today, in the area of the matter of Christ as LORD, and Christ as SAVIOR. On one side, they argue that He can be the Savior of one's life, and not be Lord of one's life. On the other side, is the argument that He is both or He is neither!

I am persuaded, that these two are intertwined...like a rope. These two strands, as it were, work in unison, to produce the salvation of the human soul! As a matter of fact, Paul is saying here, that by having Christ as our Hope, by having Christ as our Lord, by BELIEVING Christ to be the Messiah...we are saved!

I'm convinced, that at the heart of the confusion, is the confusion of what we are saved from! The confusion seems to be in the definition of SIN!

Many SEE SIN as when you do a wrong act...when you transgress God's law. But that is just the fruits of SIN... That's just the apples off the tree; the real problem is with the tree!

SIN is an entity within us! It is what Paul calls the FLESH! The rebellious, the depraved, and God opposing spirit that *holds men captive!*

Verse 23 contains one of the most descriptive definitions of a true believer there may be...

²³*And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting (patient endurance) for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

I'm convinced that herein lies one of the most descriptive passages of a “*True Believer*” in Christ!

Here, Paul describes the *heart* of the **JUST**... the heart of the one who is “*right with God*...”

Ironically, it’s not their RIGHTNESS that makes them right, but their WRONGNESS... It does not speak to the man who is HOLY, who is Righteous and without sin... But rather those who are “*right with God*” are those who walk in the awareness of their “*depraved, sinful heart condition*”...

(Vs 23) Paul says, even though we have Christ in our hearts...we are not without Sin! We are a long way from being what we should be and want to be! Paul says it’s a struggle! A struggle that he compares to the likes of “*Childbirth!*”

*...but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves**, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.*

Paul characterizes the **JUST** man “by his LONGING” to be set free from this body of Sin!

(Vs 15b~16) *...but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:*

Paul characterizes the **JUST** man “by his LONGING” to be set free from this body of Sin!

The **UNJUST** man has NO SUCH LONGING, because he no **such perception of Sin!** They have no such LONGING to be set free, they have no real desire for Christ, because they are yet “*blind*” to their *spiritual condition*. They don’t SEE THEMSELVES in bondage to SIN! They have a much different perspective... They actually SEE THEMSELVES as those who live holy, those who live righteously.

*But therein lies the problem... **They that be whole need not a physician**...* It’s important to point out, that Paul’s intended audience he is speaking too is his fellow brethren, the Jews! He is writing to the man mentioned back in chapter 2:1, who felt he was OK with God on the basis of his morality, his goodness, his conformity to God’s Law!

By all “*Outward Accounts*”...this man would appear to be a righteous man... This man seeks to live by God’s standard...he’s against cursing; he’s against stealing, against adultery, etc...and *therefore feels in his heart that he is justified before God!*

*Listen very closely... **This man has peace with God...but it is a “FALSE PEACE!”*** His SECURITY...His TRUST...His HOPE is based on his SUBMISSION and OBEDIENCE to God’s Law...

But not the man that Paul describes here in verse 23... He does not FEEL ADAQUATE! Actually he feels quiet **insufficient!** He has a deep sense of hopelessness as far as his sin. He realizes he is in bondage to SIN...and can’t do anything about it! Thus he cries out to Christ for help!

That’s the conclusion that Paul came to back in Romans 7:24...

²⁴*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

A question that Paul ask as a result of what he had found as a result of giving himself to the Law! The Law revealed to Paul the SIN that was within him!

What Paul had once thought “*Made men right with God*”, by submitting themselves to it...

What he once thought brought “*Holy Living*”, by submitting to it...by obedience to it...

Had, had just the *adverse effect!* Rather than producing “*Righteousness*,” rather than “*being right with God*”, it had manifested “*how unholy he was... how wrong he was with God*”...

The Radiance and Glory of God's Holy, Righteous Law, shined in Paul's heart...

Exposing the dark, depraved, sinful, rebellious spirit that was dwelling inside him!
A spirit that Paul was *in bondage* to... A spirit that Paul was *held captive* by...

And Paul...*being enlightened* to his being in bondage to SIN, cries out to God for help...

²⁴*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

Who will save me from this SIN that is IN ME?

Christ...Paul says. *Our only hope is Christ*...²⁵*I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Law had manifested a living entity inside him, one that he was in bondage to! What Paul calls the FLESH...the rebellious, the depraved, God opposing spirit that *holds all men captive*!

But thanks be unto God...we are not without HOPE...For we are saved by HOPE...

We are "*being delivered*" from Sin, by trusting in what we cannot SEE...

Paul is contrasting the Hope of Christ, to the Hopelessness of the Law!

For no one is "*saved*" by the Law... No one is "*made right with God*" by the Law...

My HOPE is, that God, through the Spirit of Christ...will deliver ME from the SIN that is in me!

(Vs 26~27) ²⁶*Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning's which cannot be uttered.* ²⁷*And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

Beloved, herein is a truth that every one of us needs to fully grasp and lay hold to! If you and I ever hope to be delivered, if you and I have any hope of being "*rescued*"...from SIN, it certainly won't come by the LAW! It will be by Christ and Christ alone!

We are overtaken by SIN...and we need the POWER OF GOD!

⁶*Likewise the Spirit* also *helps* our infirmities... That's a contrasting statement to what Paul says back in verse 3 of this chapter... ³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin** in the flesh:

Does that mean we now can live lawless lives... NOT at all... We have simply turned to a new law, we have simply trusted another way to live to please God... By no longer submitting to the *Law of Moses*...but the *Law of Christ*. We no longer live to a set of rules...but to a living Savior!

By taking the Law out of the equation, there's no way for a man to be "*Right with God*" **except** ye yield your life to Christ...submitting yourself to Him! The just shall live by faith... By seeking Christ, by submission to Christ, by living for the unseen savior and the unseen kingdom! By taking the Law out of the equation, there's nowhere to look but Up! That's what Paul means by what he says in verse 14...

(Vs 14) *Those who are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God!*

The Just are those who have been made aware of their sinful condition, how they are in bondage to SIN. And out of that, realize that mere obedience to the Law won't help...but their only HOPE is Christ!

Listen very closely... My HOPE is nowhere to be found in my Obedience to the Law of God... MY HOPE is in the UNSEEN CHRIST that the law points to! What makes me JUST, what makes me a Christian, is not the "*do's and don'ts*" of scripture...but rather I look to Christ, and Christ alone...

Seeking for the Spirit of God to rescue me from error! To rescue me from wrong thoughts, from wrong actions by changing my heart!

God has called all men to one thing...BELIEVE! To put my faith in Christ...

(John 6)²⁸ Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

²⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

In short... What Christ was telling the Jews here is that there is ONE THING God has called men to do... And that is to look to the ONLY HOPE...Christ! The Jewish man He was speaking to here, labored diligently, he was very earnest in “keeping every letter” of the Law! To live a life pleasing to God! But the problem was...even with his sincerity, even with his best effort...the Law couldn't help him, because the law couldn't change his heart!

...**This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.**

The ONE THING God has asked all men to do to be saved... Is to put their trust in Christ! To live their lives, in submission not to the Law, to rules... But to the LIVING SPIRIT of God! Calling out to God to deliver us from this SIN!

(John 8)²³ And he said unto them, **Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.** ²⁴ **I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.**

Beloved... Man's only hope is to turn from his own goodness, by the law, and yield his life to the Messiah!

²⁶ *Likewise the Spirit helps our infirmities: we know not what we should pray for as we ought:*

We don't know what we need! We don't know what to ask for!

We often pray wrongly... We pray to benefit the FLESH! We often pray to fulfill our own desires.

But Christ rescues us from that...and he prays for us according to the WILL OF GOD!

Christ is able to see clearly into my heart! He knows exactly what I need! And not only that, but He knows what to do. He intercedes for me, He asks the Father for what I need!

We are “*Being saved*” by Hope in Christ...

-No longer submitting ourselves to the Law...which cannot save!

-We now submit ourselves to the Spirit of Christ...who does help us...who delivers us...who saves us!