

Romans 8:5~11, part 2

Verse 5 holds a very important truth...⁵*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

Verse 5 is a very simple, yet profound statement... It is Paul's final argument as to why ultimately the Law is insufficient to save the soul! It is his explanation to the statement in verse 3...

³*For what the law **could not do**...*

Change the heart...

T: Submitting oneself to the Law may “*Restrain*” an individual from great *moral debauchery*...but there still remains one problem...the *rebellious nature*!

By submitting to the Law, there is a certain righteousness that is produced, especially when compared to this world, contrasted to those who do not submit to it... But its not enough to save the soul!

The Law cannot save because it cannot change the heart! Even though the Law produces a good moral life, the heart remains unchanged! Manifested by “*mind the things of the flesh...*”

Even though it cleans up the outside, it doesn't do a thing for the inside!

The will, the heart of the man is not changed. He continues to live for self! Which is in direct rebellion to God! Thus he is carnal, and spiritually dead in his sin!

Verse 5 is a reference to the **WILL** of man... Every man and women on earth is “*living*” unto one of the two things...either *unto God* or *unto self*!

⁵*For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh...* The Spiritually Dead give themselves to things of this world, the here and now...the carnal... But the Spiritually Alive turn from those things...and live for the eternal, yielding their lives unto the purposes of God!

³*For what the law **could not do**...It could not turn a man's heart to God!*

God did through Christ Jesus on the cross... Paul declares that the only hope for mankind, is to see the SIN within him, and then see Christ suffering on that Cross for his SIN... And through the LOVE of God, manifested on that tree...man's heart will be changed!

If we understand verse 5 correctly...we'll understand that it has ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to do with the Law! Whether JEW or GENTILE...whether we give ourselves to the law or not makes no difference! Because the Law can't change the heart!

Though the Law makes him morally and ethically right...unless his heart has been changed, unless he surrenders “*his life*”, his mind, his heart, “*his will*” or whatever else you want to call it, to God, in that of turning from his own will, and *living out his life to the will of God* and his purposes...he remains under the wrath of God.

Romans 8:5~8 is a further explanation of 6:15~18...

Q: Do we sin because we are not under the Law?

A: Whoever you yield yourselves servants to obey, he is your master!

Paul's answer to verse 15 is, whether or not there is a law is not the issue. Being obedient to the Law doesn't make a man obedient to God. We can be morally right by the Law, yet at the same time NOT YIELD our wills to God. We could still live out our lives to our own purposes and desires...

Ph. 3:17~21... Whose God is there belly...
Ga. 6:14~17... Circumcision...

Mt. 12:46~50 They who do the will of my Father...
Mt. 7:21

Mt. 16... Whosoever shall keep his life shall lose it...

I'm very concerned about the "church"...

Out of the VAST number who attend church, there is a very SMALL number who manifest any real "Spiritual Life". There's a lot of good, moral people, who believe in all the good morals of the bible, who stand for right and wrong... They are just worldly people...people who "walk by the flesh..." people who live in their own wills...

To be in God's Will is not to live in a certain way in terms of being without sin... Matter of fact, to be in God's will, you fully realize the SIN in you, which produces a struggle within! (The carnal minded man does not...he sees his goodness as being in Gods will)

Being in God's will is to Abandon our will, our rebellious nature that is within us, what Paul calls the flesh...and yield our lives to the spirit of God, yielding our lives to the will of God.

(Vs 6~7) Carnally minded is death...reason being, the carnal mind, my nature, my WILL is hostile to God, it is opposed to HIS WILL! It rebels and seeks to do its own thing...

Therefore, verse 8... It is impossible for those in the flesh to please God...
God doesn't want just "right actions..." He wants your heart!

⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ¹⁰And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwells in you.

But you...Who serve God with the Will, who walk after the spirit, who follow Christ... You are at peace with God!