



**Baptism Sunday
(Romans 8:1-17)**

Today's Reading:

Romans 8:1-17

Today's passage declares that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus for they have set their minds on the things of the Spirit and not on things of the flesh.

1. What is Baptism?

- Baptism is an outward sign of the inward condition of being cleansed from our sins when we trusted in Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives. The immersion into the water represents our death to sin and the rising out of the water represents our resurrection to new life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Definition of “Sarx” (“flesh”):

- “The word we translate, here and elsewhere, as ‘flesh’ refers to people or things who share the corruptibility and mortality of the world, and often enough and certainly here, the rebellion of the world.”

(N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone, Part 1*, p.140)

Romans 8:1-4 (ESV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

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

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,

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 8:5-8 (ESV)

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.

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

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.

⁸ Those, who are in the flesh, cannot please God.

“You Must Be Born Again”

- **3** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” . . .
- ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”
- John 3:3, The Greek is purposely ambiguous and can mean both *again* and *from above*

Romans 8:9-11 (ESV)

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.

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Romans 8:12-17 (ESV)

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

3. What the Bible Says about Baptism:

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20).

4. The Good News of Jesus Christ (The “Gospel”)

- Those who accept by faith that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the price for their sins are born again by God’s grace (and not by their own works) to eternal life.
- ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

4. The Good News of Jesus Christ (The “Gospel”)

- “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)



Let Us Pray

