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**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’**

**Message # 45 – ‘Blessings of Living In The Spirit’**

**November 6th, 2016 Text: Rom. 8:14-17**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor – Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)

Under Law (v.19); Under Pressure (v.20); Under God (v.21,22)

* There is NO HUMAN SOLUTION…

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – **God has a solution!**
* Chap. 6: The believer’s new relationship to remaining sin ***(‘know’, ‘reckon’, ‘present’)***

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This **new union** has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’*…(7:6)**
* A radical change – The Holy Spirit, ***‘those who live…set their minds on the things of the Spirit’***

**4. Interrogative Question:**

* ***‘A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation’ (Psalm 68:5)***
* **Illus.** Mephibosheth 2 Sam.9
* He took the initiative
* He showed mercy
* He was an outcast and was disabled
* [Eph. 4:32](http://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Ephesians%204.32), ***"For Christ's sake God has forgiven you."***  David did it for Jonathan's sake. God did it for Christ's sake.
* **Q. *What assurance do we have that we truly belong to Christ?***

1. **The Spirit of Grace, 14 *’All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons…’* (14)**
   1. **Led by the Spirit**
   * Context – Sin-killing, conviction for sin
   * ***‘led by the Spirit’*** = Phrase study: Lit.

* What this does and doesn’t mean
* ***‘Any human obedience is a result of the Spirit’s work’*** (T.Schreiner)
* **Apply:** You were led by what? James 1 is helpful
  1. ***‘Sons’* of God**
  + Assurance – if the Spirit is leading us to ‘kill sin’ we can be assured we are God’s (14)
  + Three implications: 1. Similarities in disposition and character (c/f Matt.5:45); 2. Sons are objects of special affection (c/f Jn.13:1; 14:21); 3. Dignity and advantage (Hodge)
  + John Piper: ***‘When you fight sin by trusting Christ as superior to what sin offers, you are being led by the Spirit’***

1. **The Spirit of Adoption, ‘…*Spirit of adoption as sons…cry, Abba, Father*…’ (15)** 
   1. **An Adopted Sons Confidence (15)**
   * Contrasting the ‘human spirit’ of bondage with what the Holy Spirit does: He transforms us from Slaves to Sons and He does this through ***‘adoption’***
   * **The big idea:** We are granted full rights and privileges of Sonship and brought into a family we had no rights to belong too! **Illus.** Barclay, Roman society
   * It’s not so much the ‘transaction’ of adoption as much as it is but its confirmation
   * C/f 2 Tim.1:7, ***‘…power, love and a sound mind’***; 1 Jn.4:18, ***‘…perfect love casts out fear…’***
   1. **An Adopted Sons Cry (15)**
   * Result…we cry, ***‘Abba, Father…’ =*** intimate,prayer – the language of sons/daughters

* **Illus.** He called me ‘Daddy’
  + It is language of intimacy and dependency

1. **The Spirit of Witness, *‘…Spirit bears witness…heirs with Christ…’* (16,17)**
   1. **Part of this witness is an ‘inner’ confirmation**
   * Almost like ‘Ladder rungs’
   * We ***‘are the sons of God’* –** The high privilege of the Gospel, 4 big things

* The greatness of God’s love
* The wonder of Christian hope
* The means of ‘Gospel holiness’ (Puritans)
* The ground of our assurance (c/f 1 Jn.5:1-13)
  + The Spirit confirms the promises of the Gospel **Apply:** Guilty and condemned
  1. **Part of this witness may include suffering (17)**
  + **‘*Heirs with Christ…glorified with Him’* (17),** yes, we like that part! (c/f Gal.3:29)
  + But the part in the middle…***’provided we suffer…’* (17)**
* Trials drive us to God…purify us…fix our hope on eternal glory (c/f Lk 24:26; Heb.5:8) **Illus.** John Newton
* The Spirit of grace, adoption, witness

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