

Romans Chapter 8  
Week 6, v.6-8

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,

There is a significant contrast between the end results of a carnally minded person and a spiritually minded person. The bible says one leads to death and the other to life and peace.

We all die physically but the death that is referred to here is that of a spiritual death – one who is under condemnation and separated from God.

James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and *when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

The life that is referred to in Romans 8:6 is the life we have in Christ now and the life we look forward to eternally with Him.

Gal 6:8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.

The result of being spiritually minded (walking in obedience to the Spirit of Christ) is life and peace.

Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

To be spiritually minded is to seek those feelings and views which the Holy Spirit produces, and to follow his leadings. Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

Those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior are no longer under condemnation for their sin. They are secure in their position in Christ. Keeping this truth in mind, consider these questions:

Are you choosing to live your life through the *power* of the Holy Spirit that has been granted to you? How can you tell if you are bent on the flesh or bent on the Spirit? What do you desire to pursue? What is your attitude towards God and the truth He reveals through His word? Do you read the Bible as your personal instruction book written from a loving Father?

1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Lam 3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.

Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble, And He knows those who take refuge in Him.

Ps 23:6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Ps 25:8-10 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way. All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Ps 31:19 How great is Thy goodness, Which Thou hast stored up for those who fear Thee, Which Thou hast wrought for those who take refuge in Thee, Before the sons of men!

Ps 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Ps 86:5 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee.

Ps 107:8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!

Ps 116:5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate.

Ps 119:68 Thou art good and doest good; Teach me Thy statutes.

Ps 145:9 The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.

What is your response to the scriptures above? How have you seen God's goodness in your life? In what ways have you seen Him lead you, show mercy to you, teach you and protect you through His Spirit?

Rom 8:7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so];

What does it mean to be hostile toward someone?

Hostile <echthra> (enmity – KJV) a reason for opposition: enmity, hatred, hostility

James 4:4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Someone who is not regenerated – saved by God's grace through faith in the work of His Son – cannot be a lover of God and is unable to choose to be subject to the laws of God. Neither in his mind or flesh is he able to be obedient to God. The carnal mind is bent on earthly and sinful things and lives a life that is opposite to the holiness of God.

Enmity against God is sin. It involves a sinner who is in conflict with Him. Hatred and love are opposite and can not be reconciled with each other, we cannot have a mind set on the flesh and please God.

Verse 7 ends with the words, 'it (the flesh that is hostile toward God) does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able [to do so].

What does this tell you about those who are not living in the Spirit? How does this information change your reaction to those who live in the world apart from Christ? Should their lifestyle and decisions be surprising or expected? What do they need?

Think about those times when you have received something very special. It may be exciting news or an heirloom handed down or a thoughtful memento from a dear friend. **What do you do with this news or gift? Why?**

God has bestowed amazing gifts on His children. Think about the people God has put in your life. You probably have family relationships, perhaps neighbors, friends, work colleagues and acquaintances through special interest groups, i.e. sports and community classes or involvement. Within this group of people who are part of your life there may be a number of them who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. **What is your goal in these relationships? Do you specifically make opportunities to share the hope that you have? What is the most significant way you can show your love to others?**

Sometimes it can seem difficult to bring up the subject of God. **Why is this so? What words do you use to begin a conversation about what you believe? How do you handle a negative response?**

**Rom 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

The KJV of Romans 8:8 begins with the words *So then*. In other words, here is the conclusion that follows.

It is impossible to be agreeable to God or to even seek to please Him as long as we are given over to human nature with all its physical and moral frailties and passions.

William Burkitt's Notes on the New Testament says this: "To be in the flesh, is not barely to have the flesh in us, but prevailing in us: to be wholly possessed by the flesh, to be drenched and drowned in sin; instead of fighting under Christ's banner against sin, to fight under the banner of corrupt nature against Christ".

**Do we struggle with the flesh and sin?**

Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good [is] not.

What does it mean to be governed by sin?

1 Cor 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

*Think!* Before God called you to be His child, you were unable to even respond to His love. It is only by His extreme grace that we are saved from a life that is ruled by sin and saved to a life that is free from the bondage of sin.

Eph 2:1-10

What is your response to this truth? How would you explain the gospel to someone who says they are not 'good enough'?

What is the one thing that you can share that cannot be refuted by another?

### Application Questions

Review the notes and verses you may have jotted down as we have studied these three verses. Keep your journal handy and read through Romans Chapter 8. Prayerfully consider how God would have you respond to His word as you look through these questions.

Read Galations 6:8.

What does it mean to have a mind set on the flesh?

What does it mean to have a mind set on the Spirit?

As you look through the routine of your day, do you see that you are spiritually minded? What evidence would show this to be true?

Romans 8:7 speaks of those who are hostile toward God. What does this mean? Take some time to pray for those you know who are in need of hearing the Gospel. Do you respond to opportunities to share with them? What opportunities might you have this week?

How do you view the gift of salvation you have been given? Is this gift precious enough that you want to tell others about it?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10.

What is your response to this section of scripture? What is God saying to you?