

**How can we the finite, the evil, and the weak be reconciled with the
infinite, the holy, and the omnipotent Lord God Jehovah?**

GOTTA PUNT! — ANSWERING THE BIG QUESTION: CHAPTER 8

1Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in (εν) Christ Jesus. **2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus¹¹ has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3**For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4**so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5**For those who are according to the flesh **set their minds** [5426, φρονουσιν]¹² on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6**For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **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*, **8**and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10**If Christ is in (εν) you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11**But **if** the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in (εν) you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also **give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in (εν) you.**

1 Since we have not stopped sinning (see the previous passage), why no condemnation?

1 What does it mean to be “εν” Christ Jesus?

2 Who has set you free from the law of sin and death?

3 Why was the Law “weak?” It is, after all, the perfect reflection of the Lord God Jehovah?

3 How did Father God overcome the weakness of the Law? How did this work? What was condemned?

4 What was the purpose of this act by Father God? Why?

We are to walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit—this is the requirement of the Law being fulfilled.

5 What distinguishes those who walk according to the flesh versus those who walk according to the Spirit? φρονουσιν

6-8 Why is the mind set on the flesh hostile toward God? So why can't we obey the law of God?

8 Why should we want to please God? (Paul makes the assumption here.)

9 What is the condition required for living not in the flesh but in the Spirit? What does it mean if the Spirit of Christ does not live in us?

10 What makes our bodies die? Our spirit live?

11 Who will give life to your mortal bodies? Why will He do so? **“If.”**

¹¹The controlling power of Holy Spirit, who is life-giving. Paul uses the word “law” in several different ways in Romans—to mean, e.g., a controlling power (here); God's law (2:17-20; 9:31; 10:3-5); the Pentateuch (3:21b); Jesus' Scripture as a whole (3:19); or as a principle (3:27).

¹²*fronéō* (from **5426** *fren*, “the midriff or diaphragm; the parts around the heart,” J. Thayer) – properly, regulate (moderate) from within, as inner-perspective (*insight*) shows itself in corresponding, outward behavior. **5426** (*fronéō*) essentially equates to *personal opinion fleshing itself out in action* (see J. Thayer). This idea is difficult to translate into English because it combines the *visceral* and *cognitive* aspects of thinking.

12So then, brethren, we are under **obligation**, [3781, **οφειλεται**, debtor; someone under obligation to pay back (discharge) a debt] not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13**for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14**For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15**For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” **16**The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, **17**and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and **fellow heirs with Christ**, **if indeed we suffer with Him** so that we may also be glorified with Him.

18For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19**For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21**that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22**For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. **23**And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption** as sons, the redemption of our body. **24**For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees? **25**But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

12 To whom, then are we under **οφειλεται**?

_____.

13 What is the condition for living by the Spirit?

_____.

14 What is the reward for being led by the Spirit?

_____.

15 What goes away with being led by the Spirit?

_____.

15 What is our new legal status when being led by the Spirit? _____ children.

15 What do we get to call the Lord God Jehovah?

16 Who stands up for us in our adoption hearing?

17 As fellow heirs with Christ as verified by Holy Spirit, what are the consequences of this inheritance?

18 To what extent do you agree with Paul that sufferings presently are not worthy of comparison to the glory to be revealed later?

18 What suffering we should seek out? Avoid?

19 Who/what else is waiting anxiously for our adoption as God's children? **20-21** Why?

21 What is the corruption of the creation? Into what will creation be given freedom? Precise answer is key here.

22 Why does creation “groan and suffer?” [Hint: consider Luke 19: 38-40]

23 We also groan—why? First fruits of the Spirit and waiting eagerly for our adoption.

24-25 In what condition are we saved? Is this hope rational hope, or speculative hope? Why rational?

How can we overcome the fragile nature of “hope,” the condition in which we are saved?

Why would the Lord God save us in a state of “hope” instead of its opposite, “satisfaction?”

26In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes** for *us* with groanings too deep for words; **27**and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to *the will of God*.

28And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. **29**For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* **conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren**; **30**and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

31What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? **32**He who **did not spare His own Son**, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33**Who will bring a charge against God's elect? **God is the one who justifies**; **34**who is the one who condemns? **Christ Jesus** is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who **also intercedes for us**. **35**Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36Just as it is written,

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH
ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS
SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." [Psalm 44:22]

37But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38**For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39**nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in (ἐν) Christ Jesus our Lord.

- 26** Who overcomes this weakness, this fragility of an unobserved hope? How does He do this? Why are they "groaning?" (see also verse 23)
- 27** On what basis does He intercede for us? Why then are our groanings sometimes not answered?
- 28** For whom does God cause all things to work together for good? "All things?" "Work together for good?"
- 29** Who are the ones who will become conformed to the Son's image? Why so many?
- 30** Who are the called? Who are the justified? Who are the glorified? Why are only the predestined called, justified and glorified?
- 31** What gives us the security of our glorification? Our justification? Our being called? (see also Ephesians 1:3-10)
- 32** And, what is the evidence for this largess?
- 33-34** On what basis will God's elect be indicted? Why no grounds? Who has the gall to bring charges against the Lord God?
- 34** Father God justifies, but who intercedes for us? Where is He, this one who intercedes? See also verse 26! Prayer power!!!
- 35** Given this connection to the Creator, who can separate us from the love of Christ? Why is this a rhetorical question?
- 36** Does Paul take Psalm 44:22 out of context to make his point? Why or why not?
- 37** On what basis are we more than conquerors? Who loved us?
- 38** Why can't these things and powers separate us from the love of God? Do they separate those who are NOT ἐν Christ from Christ?