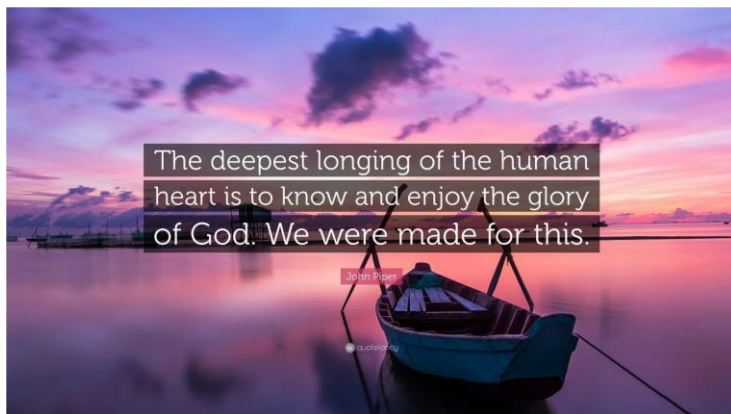


The Triune God:

My Life, His Home

Romans 8:1-17

Sooke Baptist Church
Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10am



On the first Sunday of each month it is my intent to teach on the wonder and glory of our Triune God – the One who is Three. Yahweh, the Great I AM, is the One, the only one who can satisfy the thirst and hunger of our souls. Without Him there is a gaping emptiness within that cannot be filled by anything or anyone.

The triune God created all that is.

But before He did, the triune God purposed to be humanity's Rescuer.

Our salvation, which is by grace through faith in Christ alone, is a Trinitarian act of the Father, Son and Spirit, the Three who are One.

Romans 8:1-4 clearly shows the that the Father, the Son and the Spirit are all intimately and actively involved in our rescue.

Romans 8:1-4

So now there is no condemnation
for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

And because you belong to him,
the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you
from the power of sin that leads to death.

The law of Moses was unable to save us
because of the weakness of our sinful nature.

So God did what the law could not do.

Romans 8:1-4

He sent his own Son in a body
like the bodies we sinners have.

And in that body God declared an end
to sin's control over us
by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

He did this so that the just requirement of the law
would be fully satisfied for us,
who no longer follow our sinful nature
but instead follow the Spirit.

We see in these verses.... a picture of a court room.

Romans 8:2 states clearly.... the law of Moses was unable to save...
not because it was flawed, but because ... sin has imbedded itself in
our human nature.

No human being has been able to perfectly keep the law of Moses,
no matter how hard they tried.

We all stand guilty.

But shockingly the Creator... who is the Judge of all the earth... has
stepped forward as our Advocate.

God the Son came into the world to live the life we could not... and
to die the death we deserve.

It was the will of God... that in his death... Jesus be crushed for our sin and pierced by our wrongdoing.

The condemnation we justly deserve... fell on Jesus.

This is why we who follow the Spirit are declared by God to be innocent.

There is a second picture in the passage that reveals the Father, Son and Spirit working together to save.

We see in this chapter a picture of a graveyard.

Romans 8:11

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.

Who raised Jesus from the dead?

The Spirit of God.

Romans 8:11

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Who raised Jesus from the dead?

God the Father.

But the work of the Spirit in collaboration with the Father didn't end with the resurrection of Jesus.

The Spirit is the One who mediates resurrection power to all who receive Jesus and believe in him.

Before we knew Jesus ...this was our spiritual condition.

Romans 8:8

Those controlled by the sinful nature
cannot please God.

We were controlled by sin, and we were an enemy of God.

Romans 8:8-9

Those controlled by the sinful nature
cannot please God.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature.

You are controlled by the Spirit
if you have the Spirit of God living in you.

(And remember that those who do not have
the Spirit of Christ living in them
do not belong to him at all.)

But when we received Jesus and believed in him...look what happens to us.

Romans 8:9

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature.

You are controlled by **the Spirit**
if you have **the Spirit of God** living in you.

(And remember that those who do not have
the Spirit of Christ living in them
do not belong to him at all.)

The triune God, through the Spirit... comes into our lives.
He comes to displace sin's control over us.
He comes to be the One in control.
He comes into our lives to confirm we belong to God.

Romans 8:10

And Christ lives within you,
so even though your body will die because of sin,
the Spirit gives you life
because you have been made right with God.

The Spirit... gives resurrection life to us.
The Spirit assures us... that we... have been made right with God.

Romans 8:10, 12

And Christ lives within you,
so even though your body will die because of sin,
the Spirit gives you life
because you have been made right with God.

**Therefore, dear brothers and sisters,
you have no obligation
to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.**

The Spirit empowers us. To do what?

Not just to say no to sin, but to kill it.

Romans 8:13
For if you live by its dictates,
you will die.
But if through the power of the Spirit
you put to death
the deeds of your sinful nature,
you will live.

Why does the Spirit direct us to take such a radical approach?
John Owen explains...



Sin is no trivial thing.

Unless it is put to death... it will kill your love for God.

How do we kill sin?

Romans 8:13
For if you live by its dictates,
you will die.
But if **through the power of the Spirit**
you put to death
the deeds of your sinful nature,
you will live.

What specifically gives to us the power of the Spirit to kill the deeds of our sinful nature?

Ephesians 6:17
**...the sword of the Spirit
is the word of God.**

The children's nursery rhyme "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me"... is not true when it comes to the word of God.

The word of God is living, it is active, and it is able to reach deep into our soul, revealing truth and bringing conviction and faith. Every promise in the Scripture is applicable to us.

2 Corinthians 1:20
**For no matter
how many promises God has made,
they are "Yes" in Christ.**

When we believe God... the Spirit, uses the Word of God to mediate to us grace from heaven... for our need.

Imagine you are struggling with greed... and are being tempted to trust in money rather than God.

What promise of God... might you... through the Spirit use to put to death your misplaced trust in money and build your trust in God?

Hebrews 13:5-6
**Keep your life free from
the love of money,
and be content with what you have,
for he has said,
'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'**

What is the promise?

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

In our struggle with sin... we speak with God... we thank him for his promise... and believe that he will be faithful to provide for us... as he promises.

And as we believe, the sword of God's word.... strikes a death blow at our greed and replaces it with a contentment that looks for... that waits for... that gratefully receives... what God provides.

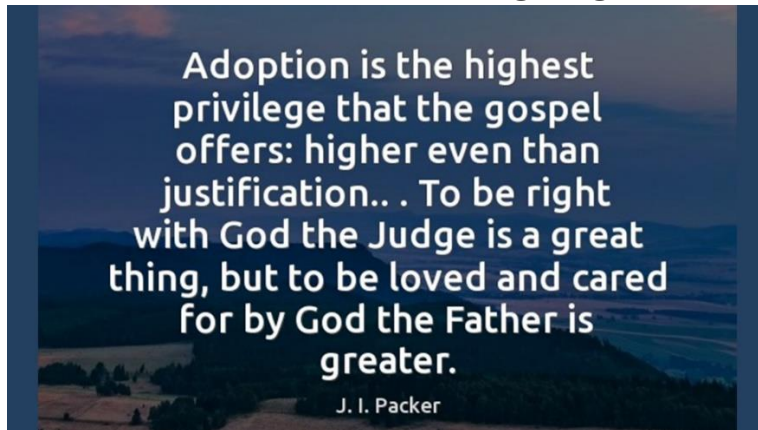
Here in these verses, we are reminded that the tomb of Jesus is empty and that God's resurrection power is active in our lives through the Spirit given to us.

There is one more picture in our passage – that of a family.

Romans 8:14-15
For all who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God.
So, you have not received a spirit
that makes you fearful slaves.
Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption.
And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

The goal of the salvation provided by God... is more than the cancelation of our spiritual debt.

It is more than our sins being forgiven. JI Packer explains...



The triune God, Father, Son and Spirit act together... to make sinners, who are their enemies... their sons and daughters.

As we read in verse 9... if we do not have the Spirit living within us... we do not belong to Christ.

As we read in verse 14... the proof that we are God's child ... is that his Spirit leads us... because... his Spirit controls us.

And now in verse 15 we read that... the evidence that the Spirit is in us... is that we relate to and call upon God... as our abba!

This is electrifying news!

David Garner says...

"The biblical motifs for salvation are not left in the cosmic courtroom, but boldly and intimately proceed into the home and fatherly heart of God.

God is not exclusively Judge; he is a gracious Father – the believer stands not merely as an acquitted criminal, but as an adopted son or daughter."

David Garner (Adoption, An Essay)

Before they created all things, Ephesians 1:4 says.... the Father, Son and Spirit chose us... to be holy and blameless.

They chose us... because of love.

Ephesians 1:5 says... because of love God predestined us.... to be adopted as his sons and daughters.

The aim of history, the reason for Christ's incarnation and redemptive work, God's goal for the entire universe... is the adoption of his people. David Garner, Adoption.

This is why God saves – in order to adopt into his family... the fallen sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.

This truth has staggering implications.

Our adoption is the foundation of our identity.

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit
that we are God's children.
Now if we are children, then we are heirs –
heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

But if we are to share his glory,
we must also share his suffering.

As children of God, we are... heirs.

Heirs of whom?

We are heirs of God... and co-heirs with Christ.

Who we are... in Christ ... is the motivation for how we live in this present time.

Right now... we live by the Spirit.

Right now... we have been freed to obey God.

Right now... by the Spirit's power we put to death the deeds of our sin nature.... in order that the fruit of holiness, the fruit of the Spirit, might take root and grow in us.

Think of this analogy.

Through the power of the Spirit, we pull out the weeds of sin within our inner person, and plant seeds of holiness.

And what is our hope in this present time?

That what the Spirit does in and through us during the years we live on the earth, will be completed... on the great day of Christ's return.

Romans 8:22-23, 25

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for **our adoption to sonship**, the redemption of our bodies.

...we wait for it patiently.

What the Spirit began in us... as he made us a new creation, will culminate in the redemption of our bodies... as we rise from the dead and what is mortal becomes immortal.

This is our hope. This is what we patiently wait for.

This is what we remember as we come to the Table.

“Abba, Father” is the heart cry of the one with whom all is well. But **“Abba, Father”** is also the heart cry of the one who is walking through the darkest of places.

Our circumstances, which are in constant flux... do not change who we are in Christ... and who the Father is because we are in Christ.

In all seasons, in all circumstances... he is our **“Abba, Father.”**

In him we take shelter.

He is our strong Defender; he will never forsake us.

I urge to come near to him this morning... and in faith to receive from him grace that is enough for today, and for tomorrow, and for each tomorrow, until your faith becomes sight.

This is who the triune God is.

He declares us to be not guilty.

He mediates to us power from heaven to live as his people.

He adopts us as his own – we belong to him.

Praise his name!