

BETHEL MATTERS

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Life in the Spirit from Romans 8

Someone has said that if stranded on a deserted island and only one chapter from a Bible washed up on shore, Romans 8 would be the chapter of wish. It is hard to argue with that choice. Romans 8 covers in succinct form everything Christians need to know about how the Christian life works. It covers salvation, sanctification, glorification, the role of all three persons of the godhead in salvation, the place of suffering in the Christian life, the place of good works, how prayer works, and our future assurance of resurrection. A special focus on our security occurs as verse one assures us of *no condemnation* and the last verse (v. 39) assures us of *no separation*.

It is instructive that the Holy Spirit is mentioned only five times in Romans chapters 1-7 and only eight times in Romans chapters 9-16 for a total of thirteen mentions in fifteen chapters, but twenty-one times is the Holy Spirit mentioned in Romans 8 alone. Truly Romans 8 is about life in the Spirit. Verses 5-11 are about the changes the Holy Spirit makes in believers' lives so we can live the Christian life. This is such a contrast with every other religion on the face of the earth. Verse 3 says, *For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do*. Every other religion is about what people DO for God to earn His favor. Christianity is about what God has DONE for us to give us His favor in Christ, and then what His Holy Spirit DOES in us to live the Christian life. Truly, every other religion is spelled DO, but Christianity is spelled DONE. And then it is spelled DOES because of the work of the Spirit in us. John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*, put it in such an excellent couplet:

Run, John run, the law commands, but gives us neither feet nor hands.
Better news the gospel brings; it bids me fly and gives me wings.

The Holy Spirit's changes are like being given spiritual wings so we may please God.

V. 5 – a new mind set (*those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit*)

V. 6 – a new life in fellowship with God (*to set the mind on the Spirit is life*)

Vv. 6-8 – a new submission to God (*the mind set on the Spirit is...peace [toward God]*)

Vv. 9-11 – a new assurance of eternal life that includes future resurrection of the body

All this prepares for, and leads to, the only commands found in Romans 8: *So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. 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*, vv. 12-13.

When I was converted as a teenager, I didn't understand all of this. These Romans 8 changes the Holy Spirit had made were undefined to me. I just knew that I was different. This new lifestyle had begun exactly as described in vv. 12-13 (which do not exclude ongoing isolated failures and sins which still occur this side of heaven). What a joy it is to understand the Spirit's work more and more and live with the wings He has provided. DONE & DOES, then DO. In that order.

Your friend, rejoicing in Romans 8,
Pastor Brian (:~:).

From the Family Life Pastor:

Various Thoughts:

Over the past few days I have seen numerous news articles about tearing down statues, modifying history and questioning what people in history did or not do right. This seems like the same kind of thing that I see in the Bible as generation after generation failed to learn from the history of their forefathers. Most of the time the results were a total straying away from what God's Word had instructed the nation of Israel to do and how to live.

In the books of 1st and 2nd Kings we see how from generation to generation we can have a decay of morals and ethics that change a nation. Saul, the first King of Israel was modest and hesitant when first selected and made King – over time, as he reigned, he changed and became more and more arrogant and self sufficient and even sought advice and direction from spiritists. His reign ended very badly.

David, Saul's successor came in also very humbly and is described as "*a man after God's own heart*" yet he too had a moral failure. To his credit, David repented and changed his whole attitude and submitted to God's will for himself and for God's chosen people. His moral failure did have a lasting impact on his family however, and his own son raped his half-sister, drove David from the kingdom for a period of time, and caused a great deal of difficulty in the family.

Solomon, who succeeded David as king also started off very humbly, when asked of God, what he wanted God to do for him (1 Kings 3:5-9) – "*At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said 'As what I shall give you.'* *And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people who you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people'?*" This request pleased the Lord and God gave him wisdom, but also riches and honor. Solomon did well for some time, but then was led astray by his wives who followed other "gods". He started well, but finished poorly because of the fact that he forgot his history and was led astray by "false gods".

Then we have a descendant of these kings – King Josiah (2 Kings 22) who did not follow the bad examples of his forefathers, but rather he "*did what was right in the eyes of the Lord*". And when Josiah heard the words of the "book of the Law" read to him (vs 11) "*When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes*". This king humbled himself when he heard the book of the Law read, and he made sure that what he heard he did not keep for himself, but rather he took the book of history about God's Laws – and in 2 Kings 23:1-3 "*Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the Lord, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that found in the house of the Lord. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant*".

We have the Word of God in our hands and we must choose if we will learn from the history of those in the Bible or to choose to reject it and walk away from it. It is essential that we as God's people choose to walk with our history, learn from it and follow examples of good and Godly men who chose to do right. We must learn from our Godly history! God so loved the world that He sent His Son Jesus Christ for us – that is a history that we must remember and share with others.

In Christ's love
Pastor Hank

Prayer Chain & Official Notices

bethelemail@gmail.com

If you have a prayer request or information that you want shared, please send that to the email address above. If you are not receiving email prayer requests or notices, please contact Ann or Ellen in the church office at 228-7589.

Items for the October Issue
of Bethel Matters
are due in the office
by, Tuesday, September 19th

Items for the Happenings
are due in the office
by Wednesday noon.

Large Volume Projects are due
one/two weeks in advance of date needed.

Have you visited our Bethel Website?
Check it Out at:

www.bethelmarquette.com

Audio Sermons are posted weekly
along with items of interest,
Bethel Matters, Calendar,
and Happenings.

Happy September Birthday/Anniversary to:

1. Ryan & Stacy Giroux
3. David Paul, Eric Smith
6. Malia Lacar
8. Alma Thomas
10. Gary Herriman, Dan Nelson
14. Kainoa Lacar, Mackenzie Motta
18. Bryce Lingle
19. Stan Taylor, Ellen Oberg
20. Linnea Songer
22. Rick Pawley
23. Laura Songer
25. Nehemiah Lacar, Brian & Cori Steede (A)
27. Laina Erickson
29. Brooke Loewen
30. Mike Ternus, Charlotte Thomsen

Congratulations To:

Bill & Heather Mosher on the August 11th birth of their son, Micah John. He weighed in at 7 lbs 14 ozs. and was 19 inches long.

Kendyl Dahlstrom for a great performance in the LION KING at the Vista Theater.

Kathy Johnson for winning several ribbons at the Marquette County Fair for jam, scarf, sweater, and photos.



Youth Events & Activities

Junior High Youth Group

6th - 8th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Senior High Youth Group

9th - 12th Graders

Sundays 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Questions:

Chris Mauser, Director of Youth Ministries

1-330-550-0141

christopher.mauser@gmail.com

Our Sympathy To:

Rick & Mim Newman following the recent death of Mim's mother, Donamaye Amdahl. The funeral was held in South Dakota

Matthew Songer and Laurie Short following the recent death of their sister. The funeral was held out of town.

Diane Case following the recent death of her sister. The funeral was held in New York.

Bible Studies

For Men

Tuesdays, 6:30 AM, Coachlight Restaurant

Questions: contact Pastor Hank 228-7589

For Ladies

Tuesdays at 6:15 PM

Beginning on September 12th

Do You Believe God? You believe IN God, but do you really believe Him and all He says in His Word. Join us this Fall for our Ladies Bible Study. The Study is "Believing God" by Beth Moore.

* * * * *

Can You Spare \$1 to help feed a hungry neighbor?

Watch for the Shopping Cart in the foyer.

Please bring the following items on the corresponding week:

September 10th
macaroni & cheese



September 17th
pasta & spaghetti sauce



September 24th
canned fruit or vegetables



October 1st
soup and crackers



All donated items will be given to the Salvation Army for their Food Pantry. Last year we donated 867 pounds of food. Can we exceed that this year?

From the Mailbox:



Bethel Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your support!

We successfully collected and distribute cases to every child in Marquette County who is currently in Foster Care. Many more bags and donations were given to the Foster Closet of Michigan – Marquette County Branch. They were so thankful to have these new items to start handing out to families in need right away. This project would not have been possible without the support from participants like you. Thanks so much for reaching out and spreading love to the children in our local community who need it.

Marquette Area MOPS

Dear Bethel,

I would like to thank everyone who called me, prayed and wrote a card to me when I was experiencing physical difficulties for several months.

Thank you all for your kindness and thoughtfulness during that time. I really do appreciate the spiritual bond with all my Brothers and Sisters in the Lord at Bethel. Thank you especially for your prayers on my behalf and for the Lord answering those requests that you had made for me, the Lord has blessed me and the Lord has certainly answered your request. Praise be unto our God! I am grateful to each of you.

The Lord Bless You,
Jack Brown

Dear Bethel Family,

I really appreciated the visits, phone calls, the many cards, and especially everyone who prayed for me. Thank you for the flower arrangement sent to me too. I was having a tough day when they arrives...they were a blessing. I have been recovering well. Please continue to pray for me for strength and healing as I continue with cardiac rehab. Looking forward to being able to worship again with my Bethel family.

Love,
Irene Janofski

Thank you Bethel Family for the plant sent in honor of my Mom, Donamaye Amhdal who is now home in heaven.

Mim & Rick Newman

* * * * *

Primetimers' ABF & Senior's Activity



Thursday, September 14th

Meet at 9 AM at Bethel to car pool to Seul Choix Lighthouse in Gulliver, lunch at 3 Seasons Care, and a stop at the famous Red Spring, Kitchitiki. (*Kitch-iti-kipi is Michigan's largest spring. It is 200 ft in diameter, 42 feet deep, and delivers 16,000 gallons of crystal clear water per minute. You can ride the raft for a beautiful view across the spring*) You can do as little or as much walking as you are able. If you'd like to climb the lighthouse, you will need closed toe shoes. Cost for the day is \$5 plus the cost of your lunch. Please let Sandy know by September 10th at 226-7232. Money is due in the office by September 10th as well. Contact Rick Pawley at 906-341-2701 if you can volunteer to drive.

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AWANA for grades K-6

Monday, September 18th
Workers Meeting at 6:30 PM

Monday, September 25th
Workers Meal at 5:30 PM
First Club Night at 6:30 PM

Cubbies (3&4 year olds for workers kids)

Questions: contact Commander Brian Steede at 475-7728 or bsteede10@gmail.com

Everyday Evangelism (EE)

We are attempting to determine if a day other than Wednesday evening fits into people's schedule better. A possible alternate day would be Saturday morning beginning at 9:30 and finishing at about 12:00 noon. If you are planning to participate in EE, we would appreciate your letting Pastor Brian or Eleanor Maier know which day is better and if you could make either day work. The starting date will be either on September 20, Wednesday, 6:00 to 9:00 or September 23rd Saturday, 9:30 to 12:00.

For those of you who may be new to Bethel and are wondering what EE is, it is a training ministry that equips participants how to witness effectively. The ministry includes a teaching time and on-the-job training opportunities when new trainees are teamed up with experienced trainers to visit principally students who have indicated an interest in having a discussion about spiritual matters during the Fall Fest event. This gives new trainees an opportunity to see effective witnessing in action. Invariably even the most timid and quiet participants feel they have greatly benefited from the training and many times return for one or more times.

Please read the following article for more information and an encouragement to become His witnesses.

A TESTIMONY AND CHALLENGE

Last night in my waking hours I turned on my I Phone to books and began reading again chapters 6 and 7 of a delightful book entitled Making it to Heaven written by John R. Lewis. John was an NMU student twenty or so years ago and lived with us for a year and has been a youth pastor for years. He was a student in the very first EE class I ever taught. While taking the class, he prayed with Ed Bourdeau to receive Jesus as Savior. John indicates in his book that he has prayed with "many" people to accept Christ as Savior. And now he has written this very special little book which is sure to be a blessing to anyone who reads it. It has increased my burden for those who still are not heaven bound and inspired me to become even more active in my remaining years to go and tell as He commanded us to. I encourage you to get it. You can purchase it from Amazon.com or download it free on one of your devices. It can be an evangelism tool as well. It motivated me to write the following:

Before I was saved, I was very fearful of going to hell. I hoped that I would at least make Purgatory. That, I believed, would enable me to pay for my sins and I would eventually make heaven. If, on the other hand, I had committed only one mortal sin, that would send me straight to hell; and that would mean there is no escape and there will be no way out. I tried to keep the ten commandments (do good works) and often I prayed myself to sleep to gain indulgences (favor) with God and so shorten my time in Purgatory. So my hope was that living as good a life as I could and suffering myself in Purgatory would hopefully get me to heaven. It all depended on ME and my efforts. In God's special mercy, He sent someone to our district and showed me that Purgatory was found nowhere in the Bible and that Jesus paid the full penalty for my sin. Jesus did a complete job. If I accepted that pardon, heaven was sure. When I get to heaven and now too, I am and will be FOREVER grateful for sending that someone and Jesus so that I could have a home in heaven for all eternity and be with our wonderful Redeemer forever. Awesome. Thank you. Thank you, Lord.

The question that looms before us all is this. How many of our friends, relatives, associates, neighbors, and strangers we continually meet are like I was. Maybe they aren't depending on Purgatory, but they are erroneously depending on their good works to get them in the door of heaven. How often we hear as we speak to people, "I am a pretty good person...." And they feel quite sure that heaven will be their destination. Are you and I that "someone" (like the one who came to me) who will tell them the good news—that Jesus paid it all. Maybe you feel that you are not an evangelist, don't know what to say, don't know how to get started on a conversation that will lead us into the salvation message, are afraid that you won't be able to answer questions they may raise, or are just plain afraid, etc. If any of these describe you, the EE training can help train you and get you ready to become the witness Jesus called us all to be. But we are not alone; remember Acts 1:8. God endues us with the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus says "you will be my witnesses...." And Jesus promised to go with us. In Matthew 28:20 following the great commission to us to go, tell, and make disciples, He stated, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." What a great partnership we have been invited to join!

-By Eleanor Maier

Recipe Corner:

King's Hawaiian Sliders

- makes 24 sliders

- 24 Slices of deli honey ham
- 6 Slices of swiss cheese, cut into fourths
- 1/3 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Poppy seeds
- 1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup Butter melted
- 1 tablespoon Onion Powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 packages (12 count) KING'S HAWAIIAN Original Hawaiian Sweet Dinner Rolls



Preparation

Step 1

Cut rolls in half and spread mayo onto 1 side of the rolls. Place a slice or two of ham and slice of swiss cheese in roll. Replace the top of the rolls and bunch them closely together into a baking dish.

Step 2

In a medium bowl, whisk together poppy seeds, dijon mustard, melted butter, onion powder and worcestershire sauce.

Step 3

Pour sauce over the rolls, just covering the tops. Cover with foil and let sit for 10 minutes.

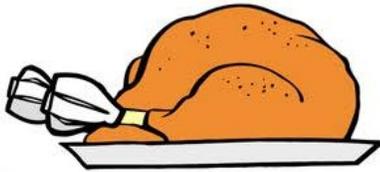
Step 4

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until cheese is melted. Uncover and cook for additional 2 minutes until tops are slightly browned and crisp. Serve warm.

brought by Ann Steede
to the Primetimer's Pot Luck at Maier's

Pig & Turkey Roast

Sunday, September 17th, 11 AM - 1 PM



Menu

Pulled Pork

Pulled Turkey

Potato Salad

Coleslaw

Baked Beans

Dessert

Coffee, Tea, Punch

Image Not
Available



- ▶ If you attend the first service, please come back for lunch at 11 AM
- ▶ If you attend the first service and ABF, please stay for lunch at 11 AM
- ▶ If you attend ABF and second service, please stay for lunch at 12:30 PM
- ▶ If you attend second service, please stay for lunch at 12:30 PM
- ▶ If you can stay after lunch and help with taking down tables and chairs, that would be wonderful. Thank you!