

It is the Spirit of God that brings life

12th / 13th July

Paul begins the chapter with the words therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and what he says is this, There is now no condemnation, no accusation and no execution of any sentence of judgement against those in Christ . No not any at all. You see the law (ten commandments) had to be fulfilled perfectly and we could not do it, all it really did was to show up how far from God we really were. But the law needed to be met. God devised a plan

Faith in Jesus Christ is like. God in his wisdom saw what was needed to make us acceptable to himself. He knew that we could never meet his standards by our own effort what we needed was a human being who was without sin and who would obey God in every way. His Son Jesus Christ He needed to give us a bridge to himself.

On holidays we went down the great ocean road and we saw the huge rock named London bridge and you could see where the wild sea had eroded the rock, it reminded me of the sin that erodes our lives and keeps us apart from God, but that is not the end to the story God offers us a bridge. He sent Jesus to die for all our mistakes and simply asks that we accept this gift of love and follow his Son.

Well that is exactly what happened Jesus Christ, human and divine came and lived and die, and then having ascended to heaven gave us the Holy Spirit to dwell with us. So we no longer walk according to the way without God but the way with God. Jesus makes us acceptable to God, Jesus'' obedience and presence of the Spirit gives us a suitable standard before God. Jesus obedience had to make up for everything by fulfilling the law's righteous demands for us because we couldn't just like big bear did for the little bear, he stood up for him and set it right with the enemy.

The message says

if God himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of him. For you who welcome him, in whom he dwells even though you still experience all the limits of sin, you experience life on God's terms. It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive and present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves into our life he'll do the same thing in us that he did in Jesus bringing us alive to himself. When God lives and breathes in us we are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you your body will be as alive as Jesus Christ. **What an incredible truth, that inspires us to live for God.**

At the beginning of verse 5 Paul is making a simple observation, there are some who live with the world at the centre of their lives and some who live with God at the centre, which one are we. When the writer Paul is speaking about flesh he is not speaking of the soft material that covers our bones but rather the way of living and thinking that describe the sinful, fallen world and when he uses the word Spirit he is not thinking of some mystical, non-material but rather the Holy Spirit and the way of living that describes goodness.

People live by one of two principles one of works or one of faith. Those who follow the works principal have to live by self. We have to be self – reliance, self- confidence, and self- determination I think it is exhausting. It's motive is the need to **do** something, much like the little bear standing up to the lion. The other way is that of faith. It is to accept the provision God has made. Right standing with God is accepted by faith, I saw that quality in our John Dyer, so often he would say to me, you do what you can and let God clean up the mess you make. John had a great faith in his living loving God and I am so glad as you would be that God blessed us with the very Godly man who was a great example of a man of faith.

Ok so how do we know if God has taken up residence in our lives? How do we know if we have God's Holy Spirit in us? How do we know we are walking with God's spirit and not without His Spirit?

Jesus promised that he would give his Holy Spirit to all who believed in him, so the first, do you believe in Jesus Christ. It is simply a question of faith. Do you believe that he is the Son of God, do you believe that he died and rose again, do you believe that his death and resurrection has made it possible to be the bridge to God because our sins are forgiven. Are we at the point in our life that you want him to be Lord of our life . IF you can say yes to those sorts of questions then you can be confident that he's kept his promise. **Verse 9**

says Read

John 1:12 read:

All who welcome Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives are reborn spiritually receiving new life from God. Through faith in Christ this new birth changes us from the inside out. Rearranging our attitudes desires and motives. Being born makes you physically alive and places you in your parent's family being born of God makes your spiritually alive and puts you in God's family.

Verse 5 is important; it is an encouragement to behave in a certain way, and a description of how things are for a follower of Jesus. I think it is true, that those who are followers of Christ have an inner desire to follow the things of of God. They have an inner desire to obey God, even though we fail miserably.

I think Paul is saying he knows nothing of a Christianity that saves but does not change. We are all a work in progress. This theme is pick up in verse 12 Reading from the Message, SO don't you see that we don't owe this old do it yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all, the best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life, and God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go.

This is the new life in the Spirit, instead of our lives being driven by sin, were now under the control of the Holy Spirit. Our minds are now set on the things of the spirit, even when we fail to obey were brought back to God by repentance saying we are sorry, It is God's spirit that brings us back. In the end what matters is not our ability or failure but, what matters is God has made us his children.

So wrapping up, the presence of the one for us you changes everything is Jesus Christ. Jesus enables us to have a restored fellowship with God and If we believe in Jesus Christ if we belong to him then he give us his Holy Spirit to dwell with in us, to fill us with his righteousness, to change our minds so we focus on pleasing God and not on self, to testify to our sprits that we are children of God.