

The year is 1517. An obscure German monk nailed a document to the church door we now know as the 95 thesis. Martin Luther was studying Romans 8 when the candle suddenly burned brighter. I've got it. It's not about good works or indulgences, but faith alone will lead to salvation. Almost 1400 years after Paul wrote Romans- what took so long?

The judge, with his perfectly ironed, shiny black robe entered the courtroom. The participants in this trial, the jury and the audience stand out of respect for the judge. After seating the courtroom, the judge brings forward the subject matter of the case of the day. On trial is Christianity and salvation.

The plaintiff is prepared to state his case for a guilty verdict based on ~~overwhelming evidence of~~ sin. Looking at the overwhelming mountain of evidence he brought forward, there could be no salvation granted.

Our defendant-Paul, a Roman citizen, a Jew, world traveler, scholar and lastly a Pharisee has skillfully crafted a defense of the gospel. Paul would present himself as a follower of Christ, a citizen of the Kingdom of God, a brother of Christ. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit he eloquently outlined the Christian<sup>Faith</sup> with all of its evidence pointing to a risen Christ.

There is no trial, but when we read and study in the book of Romans, it feels like Paul is presenting his case to a jury and judge. The perfection with which it is presented would make any defendant confident <sup>OF</sup> in the final outcome.

Paul's letter to the Romans was the first correspondence the church in Rome had with Paul or anyone else. Until now they only had the O.T. as a source of learning.

As Paul had not established the church in Rome, his previous letters had gone to the six other churches he had established. The letter to the Romans was not a corrective message as his other letters were. So Paul, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote a theological Masterpiece with a message of a loving, sovereign God and justification by faith.

Why Roman 8? Why has it been declared by some, the greatest chapter in the Bible. We recognize the skill with which Paul writes. His message is clear. Romans tells us God is for us not against us.

It is God who justifies-makes us right with God.

God who loves

God who provides

God is acting on our behalf

All made possible by the man in the middle. Three crosses on a hill. Our beloved Jesus on the middle cross.

8:12 <sup>if christ is in you</sup>  
We, as believers have been given the H.S. and as joint heirs with Christ we are obligated to live by the spirit and not by the impulse of the flesh. Live according to the flesh= death. But with the help of the Holy Spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body=life.

How do we live by the Spirit. We know how to do that. We know right from wrong. We don't have to carry a copy of the ten commandments. When you stop doing what you know is wrong, even to the point of preparing your response to someone who has offended you, it is the Holy Spirit. When you have the urge to do something wrong, put it to death by not doing it. This is one choice

at time. One day at a time until it becomes first nature.  
Be confident, we have the Spirit-He will guide.

Once again, when we unpack a portion of scripture we  
are amazed. Can this be real, is it true?

Romans 8-14 We are adopted because of the covenant  
with Abraham. We-gentiles have the same promises and  
priviledges as Israel. We are adopted sons of God. No, we  
will not be the equal of Jesus, but we will in the family of  
God.

*Isaiah 44-6-8*

Romans 8-15-We have freedom-freedom<sup>from</sup> what and  
freedom to what. Freedom from feer-fear of what

*All of those human weaknesses*

Getting in over our head

Failure

A bad diagnosis rom your Dr.

Fearing we have been so bad, we don't deserve  
forgiveness.

Fear is a choice. Fear can be an idol. When we serve fear  
more than our God. The opposite of fear is <sup>not</sup> bravery or  
bravado. For the Christian the opposite of fear is faith.  
Work at it, practice your faith. All the while, keep you  
eyes on the man in the middle. Our beloved Jesus Christ.

Freedom to what? To lead a God centered life.

And him we cry Abbah Father. A phrase of endearment. A phrase that brings us close our God. Makes us want to hug and experience a love we haven't know before. To experience the power of grace, equal to the power of creation. But we have a transcendent God. Webster's defines as above and beyond<sup>this is</sup>. The same God Moses met on Mt. Sanai where Moses was told to not bring anyone with him as they would die. Jesus died to close that gap.

Romans 8-17

Co\_heirs with Christ.

Romans 8-19

Romans 8-21 we are going to fix it

Romans 8-26 Holy Spirit helps us pray

All of this seem beyond real. We can defeat the deeds of the body with the help of H.S. We might think Jesus could do that, but he is the son of God. We are also children of God. That doesn't promise us an easy road. All of this is made possible by our Jesus on a cross. Ressurrection Sunday is further proof eternity is life, not

Death. Our world, because of sin is starting to fail us. Sadly, it might be a part of what we have to suffer, but its only temporary.