

Series: Seeing **how** Jesus is your salvation will stir your love for him.

**IF JESUS DOES NOT BECOME THE MAN TO YOU, YOU'LL DIE AND STAY DEAD.**

**ONE: Know how and why Jesus became THE MAN. Romans 8.1-8**

Romans 8 <sup>1</sup> Therefore now **for those in Christ Jesus** there is **no condemnation.** <sup>2</sup> For **the law of the Spirit of life** has set you free in Christ Jesus **from the law of sin and death.**

<sup>3</sup> For **God has done what the law** weakened by the flesh **could not do.** **By sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh and **for sin** [*as a sin offering*] **he condemned sin** in the flesh in order **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us** <sup>4</sup> **who** not according to the flesh **walk** but **according to the Spirit.**

<sup>5</sup> For those existing according-to-the-flesh on the-things-of-the-flesh are setting their minds, but those according-to-the-Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh: death; but **the mind set on the Spirit: life and peace.** <sup>7</sup> Because the mindset of the flesh: hostility towards God (for to the law of God it does not subject itself, for it is not even able).

<sup>8</sup> And those who are existing in the flesh are not able to please God.

**TWO: Live in the new age without fear with Jesus as God's MAN for you. Romans 8.9-17**

Romans 8 <sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in flesh but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. **If anyone the Spirit of Christ does not have, this one is not of him.** <sup>10</sup> **But if Christ is in you:** though the body: dead because of sin, **the Spirit: life because of righteousness.** <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of the one raising Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **the one who raised Christ from death, he will make alive your subject-to-death bodies through his Spirit dwelling in you.**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- <sup>13</sup> for if according to the flesh you are living, you are going to die— but **if by the Spirit the practices of the body you are putting to death, you will live.** <sup>14</sup> **For as many as by the Spirit of God are being led, these sons of God are,** <sup>15</sup> **for you did not receive a spirit of slavery again into fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption by whom we are crying out: Abba! Father!** <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself is bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. <sup>17</sup> and if children, also heirs, heirs of God, fellow heirs of Christ, **if we suffer with, in order to be glorified with.**

*In this life indwelling sin will not expel the Spirit from believers, but neither will the Spirit completely expel indwelling sin.*

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1. “Black Theology” grows from the soil of slavery’s oppression, its viewpoint that of victims who if they can only get “The Man” off their backs will be free. When & how do you play the victim? Who or what today do believers & non-believers think they need to get off their back?
2. In Romans 7:23-25 Paul tells us the Man on our back is us. In our flesh (life from Adam and our parents) we don’t want to and aren’t able to submit to God and his ways. What motives drive us to still try so hard to make ourselves acceptable to God by our own efforts?
3. God’s law, commandment, instruction, could not remove condemnation and bring life to us because of the weakness of our flesh. List out from Romans 8.2-4 what God did. Meditate a bit on the significance of each phrase/clause in these three verses.
4. God’s forgiveness in Christ is always accompanied by regeneration (new birth/life) which changes the rule/reign under which we live. We are not to think like those under the rule of law/condemnation, but to think like those already with adoption papers from God, those with new life from the Spirit. What practical guidance can you apply daily to keep you from trying to find acceptance based on your performance? In what specific ways can you act out this truth towards family and friends?
5. While there is much perspective in Romans 8.1-17 that is helpful in our growing in Christ Paul’s focus seems to be on God’s removing for those who are in Christ fear of both present condemnation and fear of final judgment. How is fear of condemnation such a shaping force in our lives?