

Romans

is a message about
"Lives turned right side up from the inside out"

This is Paul's story.
This is the Gospel.
This is our story.

Romans

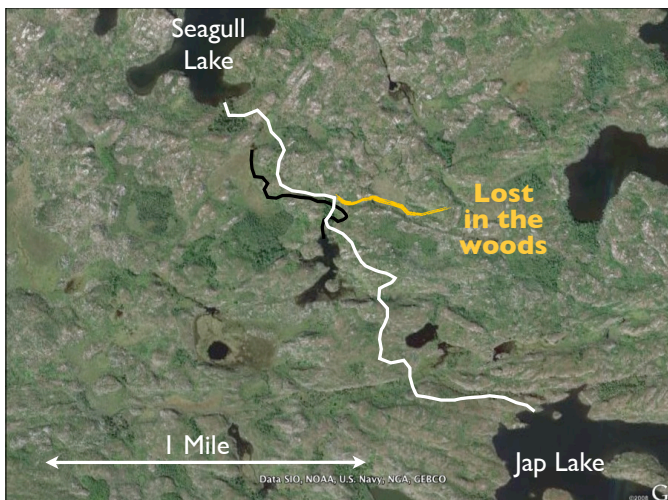
is a message about
"Lives turned right side up from the inside out"

The old Saul

Jesus was a blasphemer
 Gentiles were despised
 Christians were persecuted
 Rome was the enemy
 A champion of human merit under the Law

The new Paul

Jesus was God in the flesh
 Gentiles were beloved
 Christians were saints
 Rome was his destiny
 A champion of Jesus' merit under grace



Two principles or laws

The law of death

The law of life

What constitutes true repentance & saving faith?



- Level #1
Intellectual assent
"superficial faith confession"
- Level #2
Transfer of trust
"heartfelt confession of faith"
- Level #3
Water baptism
"confirmation of repentance"
- Level #4
Commitment to holy living
(a pure heart)
- Level #5
Living a life of obedience
(a pure life)

Some people falsely think that level #1 saves.

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"superficial faith confession"

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Others falsely think that one or more of these steps are needed for justification.

Level #2 saves and should lead to levels #3,#4,.

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Romans 6

Presenting ourselves to God

we are to present our bodies to righteousness

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Romans 7

Dying to the Law

we are not to be under the Law, which misses #2 and makes #3,4,5 the issue with respect to our spiritual security.

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Romans 8

"1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law (principle of operation) of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law (principle of operation) of sin and of death. 3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,"

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A summary of Paul's letter up until this point.

1. All humanity is under the principle of sin and death as prescribed by the Law. ch.1-3
2. Jesus fulfills the Law "for" us, placing the benefits "in" us by faith. ch.3-7



**But where does that leave us?
How does that change us?**

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- **The Spirit is mentioned only once (in 5:5) before this chapter. He is mentioned 17 times in this chapter.**
- **The emphasis is on what the Spirit does *IN US* by giving *assurance* to believers of what Christ has done *FOR US*.**
- **This is not to say that the Spirit will not also manifest godliness *THROUGH US*.**

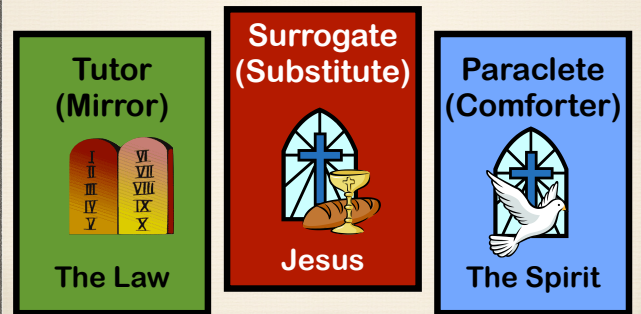
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Romans 3-7 What Christ has done FOR us (righteousness through faith)	Romans 8 What the Spirit is doing IN us (rest through our "renewed mind")	Romans 12-16 What the Spirit is doing THROUGH us (fruitfulness through obedience)
Positional (legal) peace	Psychological (inner) peace	Public (outer social) peace

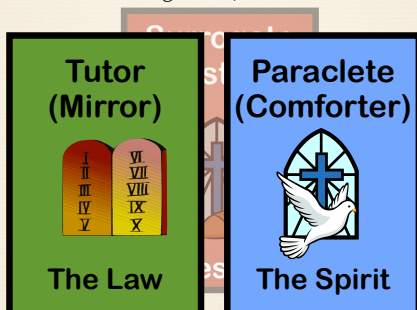
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"3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."

Romans 8

"4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled **in us**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

"in us"

could have the sense of either "**for us**" in that the righteousness demanded by the law is ours by faith in Christ, or "**through us**" in that the Spirit enables us to live holy lives and thus fulfill the law.

Romans 8

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Why this is best understood as "for us" with its benefits being "in us."

1. Paul is speaking of the finished work of Christ on the Cross in verse 3.
2. "Might be fulfilled" is passive in the Greek text.
3. The whole argument of Romans, up until this point, makes little sense if in the end we can fulfill the law.
4. No person has ever lived a life that completely fulfills the law save one (Jesus). The Gospel is the good news that only one person had to.

Romans 8

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"Walking according to the flesh"

When we see self under the Law

↓
Death



"Walking according to the Spirit"

When we see self in Christ

↓
Life

"5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace,"

- **The unregenerate and the regenerate (believer) live with a different perspective or mental orientation.**

7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- **The unregenerate are listening to a different drummer - rejecting the Gospel and the reconciliation, life, and peace that is in Christ.**

"9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if (**since**) indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

- **Christians are not in the flesh but are indwelt with Christ's Spirit and thus belong to him.**

"10 And if (**since**) Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit (**first fruits**) who indwells you."

- **Those who possess the Spirit still have a body of sin and death, which will not be removed until the resurrection.**

"12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

- **We are still connected to the world (including our flesh) but we are no longer slaves to it and we must die to it if we are to experience newness of life.**

"14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God (**Gal.5:18 "are not under the law"**), these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."

- **Sons of God are led by His Spirit into both suffering (out of sink with the world) and glory (resurrection).**

If we are “in the flesh” we are unregenerate.	If we are “in the Spirit” we are regenerate.
To “walk according to the flesh” is to live like one who is unregenerate.	To “walk according to the Spirit” is to live like one who is regenerate.
The “mind set on the flesh” is conformed to the world.	The “mind set on the Spirit” is transformed to Godliness.
Death and Anxiety	Life and Peace

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Ephesians 4

“²⁰ But you did not learn Christ in this way, ²¹ if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, ²² that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, ²³ and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and **put on the new self**, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.”

Two mental postures

1.
Talk to self
(sow to the Spirit)

**Import
the Word
of the Cross**

Telling yourself the truth

1. Your identity “in Christ”
2. Your death by baptism
3. Your new life in the Spirit

2.
Listen to self
(sow to the flesh)

**Surface
the lust
of the flesh**

Rehashing the lie

1. Satan’s word to Eve
2. Satan’s word to Jesus
3. Satan’s accusation

“To run and work the law commands,
Yet gives me neither feet nor hands;
But better news the gospel brings:
It bids me fly, and gives me wings.”

author unknown

“Law was given that grace might
be sought, grace was given that
the law might be fulfilled.”

Augustine of Hippo

So what are we to learn from this passage?

- There is now NO condemnation for those who are “in Christ” by faith.
- The Spirit’s ministry to believers STARTS with assurance of what Christ has finished FOR us.
- A godly “mind set” is the first step to “walking in the Spirit” and sharing in the life of Christ here and now.
- Expect to struggle and suffer as we walk in the Spirit of Christ as aliens in this world.