

INDWELLING

Eight Weeks in Romans Eight



The Greatest Chapter on Earth

THIS AIN'T HUGH JACKMAN'S VERSION OF THE GREATEST THINGS

In December 2017, a box office musical featuring Hugh Jackman, Zendaya, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, and many others took the country by storm. It was the telling of P.T. Barnum's rise to fame and the circus, and people, that got him there. The movie and songs claimed this was the greatest show on earth.

The book of Romans is by no means a show, but chapter 8 of Romans certainly is known as the greatest chapter in the Bible... probably the greatest chapter in all of literature. Many pastors, teachers, and theologians have made this claim, even at the risk of being contradicted.

Whether or not it is the "greatest" chapter, it certainly is a theologically and formatively rich chapter for the Christian. Over the next eight weeks, our church and Life Groups will journey through this chapter to see just how good our God is and our place in His story.

Schedule & Announcements

JAN 9 - FEB 27 | SERIES

JAN 13 - FEB 24 | CURRICULUM

ADULT MINISTRIES |

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
SUN, TUES, WED - JAN-MAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDIES
THURS - FEB

PLAYDATES FOR MOMS
FRI - JAN-MAY

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE
AT LEGACYCHURCH.ORG

Be Killing Sin

ROMANS 8:9-13

Read Romans 8:9-13

Recap last week's discussion and premise.

This week, our focus is the indwelling power of the Spirit and how He helps us to fight sin.

Consider the word "however" in verse 9. This word helps to give readers the understanding that Paul is, in fact, writing to Christians. Why does the word "however" mark an important distinction for these Christians? When applying this to yourself, why does it mark an important distinction for you?

Based upon last week's reading, how does one receive the Spirit in their life? Is it an instantaneous occurrence or is it something that requires a lengthy period? Why do you say that (or what is your scriptural evidence for your answer)?

In verse 10, what stands out to you regarding life and death, the body and the spirit? Why do you believe that stands out? How does that help you to grow as a Christian?

In connection with verse 11 and for the understanding of the Spirit's work, Geerhardus Vos states "The Spirit is both the instrumental cause of the resurrection-act and the permanent substratum of the resurrection-life." This verse helps us to know that a physical resurrection will take place for Christians. How does verse 11 help you understand the resurrection better? What do you look forward to in the future when it comes to the resurrection? What other books of Scripture can you think of that helps you understand the resurrection?

There is an old "joke" that I have heard many times. The joke goes something like this - *"Did you know there are three aspects to our salvation? Yes indeed! The first is justification, because by faith we are justified before God in Christ Jesus. And this happens instantaneously. The last aspect of our salvation is glorification where we stand before God complete. This, too, is an instantaneous thing. But that middle part, well that's something harder. You see, that part of our salvation is called sanctification. And that is not an instantaneous thing, it's a life-long thing. But that's*

probably because it's a tongue twister!" Ha! Okay, maybe not the best joke in the world but it does help us understand this next part of Romans 8. Our sanctification is a life-long process and the Spirit is vital for our sanctification.

James Montgomery Boice, in his commentary on Romans 8, lists three inadequate approaches to our sanctification. Those wrong approaches are methods (special ways of ordering life devoid of the Spirit), formulas (easy to grasp solutions, i.e. "Let go and let God"), and experiences (extra-biblical moments like a second blessing of the Spirit, etc). In what ways are you tempted to seek your sanctification by these three ways (we **all** do this at some point)? What happens when you begin to live by methods, formulas, or experiences and not by the Spirit? Why is it important to walk by the Spirit? In what ways do verses 12 and 13 call us up as Christians to walk by the Spirit?

17th century Puritan pastor and theologian John Owen famously stated "Be killing sin or it will be killing you." In what ways does our passage today support Owen's idea? How has the Spirit helped you kill sin in your life? Take a moment and consider sin that God has revealed to you recently or pray for God to reveal sin. Now, as a Life Group, confess sin (this is a goal of Groups to be vulnerable and transparent with our sins and struggles) and pray for the Spirit's help in fighting and killing sin.

Is there anything else in this passage that stood out to you, that convicted you, or that you would like to discuss and apply?



"The Christian life isn't about self-improvement, it's fellowship with the Spirit. He comes to us because life is too much for us alone."