Study in Romans

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The Spirit of Sonship
Romans 8:12-17

In chapter 1, Paul introduced us to the external witness of God's power and nature in creation. In chapter 2, Paul introduced us to the internal witness of the conscience on which is written the requirements of the law. Now he introduces us to the most important and personal of all the witnesses, the Holy Spirit. Without the work of the Spirit for assurance of salvation, we might believe there is a God, that He has a set of moral demands on us for which we will have to account at the end of life, and we might even be convinced of God's promise of eternal life free from condemnation for all who have faith in Jesus Christ. However, it is quite another thing to believe that these promises of the Gospel are true for **me** *individually*! This is what Paul is helping us understand in these verses. The work of the Spirit in our lives to be in the habit of putting to death the misdeeds of the flesh bears witness that we belong to Christ.

Do you need assurance of salvation? Then seek to answer this question, "Do I have the Holy Spirit working and residing in me?" We've already learned in v. 9 that those who do not have the Holy Spirit do not have Christ. So now Paul is unfolding this important work of the Spirit for assurance of salvation and eventual glorification in the rest of this chapter. Thank God for the Spirit of Sonship by Whom we have personal assurance that we indeed can come to God free of condemnation as our Daddy!

1. We are obligated to obey our new Master and deny the old master (vv. 12-13)

2. Assurance of sonship: The work of the Spirit (v.14-17)

    a. The Spirit of freedom (v. 15)

    b. The Spirit of personal testimony (v. 16-17)