

**Outlines of the Messages
for the International Chinese-speaking Conference
February 14-16, 2025**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CHAPTERS 5 THROUGH 8 OF ROMANS—
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

**Message Five
The Indwelling Christ**

JL Hymns: 1113

Scripture Reading: Rom. 8:9-11, 28-29

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

I. Romans 8 may be considered the focus of the entire Bible and the center of the universe; thus, if we are experiencing Romans 8, we are in the center of the universe.

Rom 8 be omitted.

II. Romans 8 is not a doctrinal chapter but an experiential chapter; it speaks not about the doctrine of the Trinity but about the Trinity in the experience of the Christian life.

Rom 8 be omitted.

III. Romans 8 reveals that the processed Triune God as the law of the Spirit of life gives the divine life to the believers for their living—vv. 2, 6, 10-11, 26-29.

Rom 8 be omitted.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

IV. Romans 8 concerns the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit as the ultimate consummation of the Triune God; this Spirit will make us exactly the same as Christ in life, nature, and expression; this is Romans 8.

Rom 8 be omitted.

V. “You are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you”—v. 9a:

- A. This chapter unveils to us how the Triune God—the Father (v. 15), the Son (vv. 3, 29, 32), and the Spirit (vv. 9, 11, 13-14, 16, 23, 26)—dispenses Himself as life (vv. 2, 6, 10, 11) into us, the tripartite men—spirit, soul, and body—to make us His sons (vv. 14-15, 19, 23, 29, 17) for the constituting of the Body of Christ (12:4-5).

Rom 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery bringing you into fear again, but you have received a spirit of sonship in which we cry, Abba, Father!

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Rom 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Rom 8:23 And not only so, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.

Rom 8:17 And if children, heirs also; on the one hand, heirs of God; on the other, joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified with Him.

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

- B. If we allow the Spirit of the Triune God to make His home in us, then in our experience we are in the spirit and are no longer in the flesh.

- C. If we are so, the Triune God as the Spirit will be able to spread from our spirit (8:10) into our soul, represented by our mind (v. 6), and eventually He will even give life to our mortal body (v. 11).

Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

VI. “Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him”—v. 9b:

- A. This shows that our being of Christ depends on His Spirit.
- B. If there were no Spirit of Christ, or if Christ were not the Spirit, there would be no way for us to be joined to Him and to belong to Him.
- C. However, Christ is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17), and He is in our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22) and is one spirit with us (1 Cor. 6:17).
 - 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
 - 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.
 - 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- D. The Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ are not two Spirits but one.
- E. Paul uses these titles interchangeably, indicating that the indwelling Spirit of life in verse 2 of Romans 8 is the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit of the entire Triune God.
 - Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- F. God, the Spirit, and Christ are all mentioned in verse 9.
 - Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.
- G. There are not three in us; there is only one, the triune Spirit of the Triune God—John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17; Rom. 8:11.
 - John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.
 - 2 Cor 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
 - Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

VII. “But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness”—v. 10:

- A. “Christ ...in you” is the crucial point in the book of Romans:
 - 1. In chapter 3 Christ is on the cross, shedding His blood for our redemption.
 - 2. In chapter 4 Christ is in resurrection.
 - 3. In chapter 6 we are in Christ.
 - 4. In chapter 8 Christ is the Spirit in us.
- B. Before we believed in the Lord, our spirit within was dead and our body without was alive.
- C. Now that we have Christ in us, though our body without is dead because of sin, our spirit within is life because of righteousness.
- D. Christ’s coming into us as life exposes the death situation of our body.
- E. In our spirit is Christ the Spirit as righteousness, resulting in life; but in our flesh is Satan as sin, resulting in death.
- F. Through the fall of man, sin, bringing death with it, entered the human body, causing it to become dead and impotent in the things of God:
 - 1. Although God condemned sin in the flesh (v. 3), this sin has not been uprooted or eradicated from man’s fallen body.
 - Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
 - 2. Hence, our body is still dead.
- G. The spirit in Romans 8:10 is the regenerated human spirit, in contrast to the fallen human body.
 - Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
- H. The spirit’s being life because of righteousness refers to our human spirit, not to the Spirit

of God.

- I. Our spirit has not only been regenerated and made living; it has become life:
 - 1. When we believed in Christ, He as the divine Spirit of life came into our spirit and mingled Himself with it.
 - 2. The two spirits thereby have become one spirit—1 Cor. 6:17.
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
- J. In God's justification we have received righteousness, which is the Triune God Himself entering into our being, into our spirit—Rom. 8:10:
Rom 8:10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is life because of righteousness.
 - 1. This righteousness results in life—5:18, 21.
Rom 5:18 So then as it was through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also it was through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.
Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 - 2. Now our spirit is not merely living but is life.

VIII. “If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you”—8:11:

- A. In this verse we have the entire Triune God—“the One who raised Jesus from the dead,” “Christ,” and “His Spirit who indwells you. ”
- B. Christ is dispensing Himself into the believers, as shown by the words *give life to your mortal bodies*, which indicate that the dispensing not only occurs at the center of our being but also reaches to the circumference, to our whole being.
- C. *Give life* does not refer to divine healing but to the result of our allowing the Spirit of God to make His home in us and saturate our entire being with the divine life.
- D. In this way He gives His life to our mortal, dying body, not merely to heal it but also that it may be enlivened to carry out His will.