

Pastor Jake Magee

Message Notes | 12.15.24

Romans 8:1-4 | Christ Jesus



¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For 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, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.



Christmas is one person (the Father) empowering a second person (the Son) with a third person (the Holy Spirit) to save a fourth person (You).

What Christ Jesus Accomplished for Us

The Great Undoing

The Idea: one of our great problems is guilt (vs.1). Feelings of guilt are often the recognition we have not lived life the way we should and that we are incapable of going back and undoing what we've done. God sends *Christ Jesus* to undo our guilt. Galatians 4:4&5 says, "...God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

The Great Redoing

The Idea: Whereas on the cross Jesus was *undoing* our guilt by taking our punishment, during his 33 years of life he was *redoing* and *reliving* every stage and part of life the way we should have by the Holy Spirit. He presents that righteous life to the Father on our behalf to count as *our life*, thereby declaring us righteous. He also begins to work that righteous life *in us* by His Spirit, which will culminate in us being just like Jesus.

Philippians 2:5-8, ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Hebrews 2:17, ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Discussion Questions

Read Romans 8:1-4

1. Review: What does “Christ” in “Christ Jesus” mean (vs.1)?
2. On Sunday, Pastor Jake said that Christmas is about one person empowering a 2nd person with a 3rd person to save a 4th person. What does that mean? Where do you see that in verses 1-4?
3. The dependency of Jesus on the Spirit of God is made public and unmistakable during his earthly ministry. Give some examples.
4. What statements do we find about Jesus’ birth that tell us Jesus would be no less dependent on the Holy Spirit throughout his life?

Small Group Questions Cont.

5. *Read Philippians 2:5-8.* When Paul says Jesus emptied himself and did not grasp his equality with God, it means something like *he chose not to use his attributes or 'powers' as God.* Talk through different attributes of God and how Jesus might have not asserted them.

6. *Read Hebrews 2:17.* This suggests that Jesus living an ordinary life like us (which he did for 30 years) was just as important *for our salvation* as his extraordinary life during his ministry. Walk through the following stages of life and talk about how Jesus' experiences were very much like ours (and also different): *baby, child, teen, young adult, adult.*

7. On the cross Jesus was *unliving (reversing/undoing)* the terrible lives we had lived. Up and to the cross, Jesus was *reliving* the entire scope of life that we should have. In a search engine, search the following question and discuss what you find: *what is the active and passive obedience of Christ?*

8. According to Hebrews 4:14-16, how should you respond to Jesus' incarnation this Christmas season?

Note: Small group questions will be discontinued until the 2nd week of January.

Resources:

Romans: *Righteousness from Heaven* | R. Kent Hughes.

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org