

The Letter of St. Paul to the **ROMANS**

VII

INTRODUCTION

What are some things that remind us of death (including our own future death) on a daily basis?

What are some reasons why people might be afraid of death?

OUTLINE

Theme: Righteousness from God

I. Introduction (1:1-17)

II. All lack righteousness (1:18-3:20)

III. Righteousness comes from God (3:21-4:25)

IV. The effects of God's righteousness (5:1-8:39)

a. Peace and Confidence (5)

b. Freedom from sin (6)

c. Freedom from the law (7)

d. **Freedom from death (8)**

i. **Because we already died (8:1-17)**

ii. **Even though it still looks like we're dying (8:18-39)**

V. God's righteousness in dealing with Israel (9:1-11:36)

VI. God's righteousness put into practice and Conclusion (12:1-16:17)

FREEDOM FROM DEATH BECAUSE WE ALREADY DIED

Read Romans 8:1-11.

Verse 1 draws an amazing conclusion and renders a powerful verdict. What does this mean for you? (Tie this in to the previous chapter and the discussion of human character and our personal struggles with sin.)

In verse 2, we are confronted again with the word *law*. We could paraphrase this verse like this: Through Christ Jesus the *control* (law) of the Holy Spirit, who gives life, set me free from the *control* (law) of sin that brings death. How does sin bring death?

Explain how the law (God's holy will) was "powerless" and "weakened by the sinful nature."

What is God's only antidote to this deadly situation (verses 3-4)?

What are the two results from God's antidote (verses 3-4)?

There are only two ways to live: according to the sinful nature and according to the spiritual nature (created by the Holy Spirit), and they are polar opposites. Read verses 5-11 and note the differences between the sinful nature and the spiritual nature (new creation).

Sinful nature

Spiritual nature (new creation)

Read Romans 8:12-17.

How do we go about living according to the spiritual nature and not according to the sinful nature? (Hint: think about Luther's first thesis of the 95 Theses.)

What is the comfort of knowing that not only are we heirs, but we are co-heirs with Christ?

FREEDOM FROM DEATH EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STILL DYING

Read Romans 8:18-27.

What kinds of suffering have you experienced in your life?

What is the purpose of suffering (go back to Romans 5 for some insight)?

Even though we must suffer, Paul offers us encouragement to help us get through that suffering. What are some things Paul says that help us as we suffer?

Who is all involved in the "groaning" that takes place because of the suffering that goes on in the world?