

Romans 8: 12-17



The Text – Rom 8:12–17

1. Paul is insistent that Christians have left behind the realm of sin, flesh, law and death. What does he want Christians to believe and do in Rom 8:12? Compare this with Rom 6:1–4; 6:6–7; 6:11; 6:15; 6:18; 7:4; 8:9.

2. Does Rom 8:13 encourage or disturb you?

3. Describe the activities of the Father, Son and Spirit in Rom 8:13–17. What is the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit?

4. What does it mean to be a child of God in this passage?

The Scriptures – Rom 8:12–17 as a Portion of Scripture

5. One commentator (Pate) has summarised six blessings from the Spirit in Rom 8:1–17: The Spirit...

- (i) gives faith and the person is justified
- (ii) dwells with people giving power to obey, without being under the law of Moses
- (iii) is a fulfilment of Joel 2:28–29
- (iv) is a down payment of the future resurrection body (compare 2 Cor 5:5 and Eph 1:14)
- (v) gives believers an inward sense that God is their heavenly Father
- (vi) is proof that believers are destined for glory.

Does this seem a fair overview? How can you respond to each of these gifts?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Rom 8:12–17 as a portion of the Scriptures

6. How does Paul motivate people to live obediently? How do you try to motivate others? How do you try to motivate yourself?

7. Have you recently been able to put to death something of the misdeeds of the body? How did the Father, Son and Spirit work in this?

8. Discuss this claim from J.I. Packer:

“You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much she makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as her Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.”

9. Do you enjoy your relationship with the Father, Son and Spirit? How? Why?