

Evening Worship / January 29th 2023
“Helped Toward the Heavenly!” Romans 8:5-17

- I. *Helped toward the heavenly, the spiritual, away from the fleshly, away from death, helped toward LIFE –*

We are helped because we desperately NEED Help –

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:5–8 (NKJV)

1. *By nature, we live according to the flesh –*
- A. *Greek here for Flesh is sarx, it is a reference both to our natural flesh, our skin, the edible parts of animals, but also our entire humanity, especially sinful humanity!*
- B. *It refers not only to what we would typically consider fleshly appetites when you think carnal, think carnivore, someone who eats meat, or sexual appetites, they include these in flesh, but also the pride of false faith, Paul thought he was God’s champion before he was converted –*

² Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. ⁴ though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. Philippians 3:2–6 (NKJV)

2. *We need to be helped and honed away from MINDING the things of the flesh, these things lead to death ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death Romans 8:6 A*
3. *We need to be helped and honed toward, heavenly, spiritual things, we do NOT naturally mind these things, but it is essential that we do, because these things are life and peace – but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:6 B*
4. *It is impossible in our normal born once state to please God –*

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:7–8 (NKJV)

This is why Jesus says to Nicodemus –

⁷ **Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’** John 3:7 (NKJV)

5. *The first step toward receiving this help is the realization you NEED it –*

³ **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.** Matthew 5:3–4 (NKJV)

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.** Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)

II. *Helped by God's Holy Spirit –*

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him 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 dwells in you. ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:9–13 (NKJV)

1. *Not in the flesh if the Spirit dwells in you, and if the Spirit is not in you, you are NOT Christ's you are not a true Christian - if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. :9*

This is important, because we tend to deceive ourselves, there will be people who think to the very end they are right with God, who are not indeed His –

²¹ **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ Matthew 7:21–23 (NKJV)**

A. *Note our Lord Jesus Christ says “Many” will be thus deceived!*

B. *They had a profession of faith “Lord, Lord” they did many seemingly great things, even in Jesus’ Name but Jesus rejects them ...*

2. *If we are not absolutely certain we have God's Spirit, we should PRAY God will give Him to us –*

⁹ **“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” Luke 11:9–13 (NKJV)**

3. *The Holy Spirit is an exceedingly POWERFUL Helper –*

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him 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 dwells in you. Romans 8:11

A. *He raised Christ from the dead –*

B. *He is the Third Person in the Godhead, He has all the attributes of God –*

What is God? God is a Spirit, (John 4:24) infinite, (Job 11:7–9) eternal, (Ps. 90:2) and unchangeable, (James 1:17) in his being, (Exod. 3:14) wisdom, (Ps. 147:5) power, (Rev. 4:8) holiness, (Rev. 15:4) justice, goodness, and truth. (Exod. 34:6–7) Westminster Shorter Catechism

C. *We need powerful help because we have powerful weaknesses / enemies –*

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against

the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Romans 7:21–24 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:10–13 (NKJV)

4. *Yet, as powerful as our weaknesses and enemies are, having God on our side we should EXPECT to be victorious! We are not debtors to the flesh –*

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:12–13 (NKJV)

Note we have:

A. *Powerful Allies: Christ, the Holy Spirit*

B. *Powerful motives, live according to the flesh, we die, according to the Spirit we live, this is speaking of eternity death = Hell / Life = Heaven!*

III. *Helped to be happy children of God –*

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:14–17 (NKJV)

1. *Being “led” by the Spirit means we are “sons” “Children of God”*

2. *Faith, not fear, a Happy / Blessed cry – Abba Father ... Daddy / Father*

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

A. *When a baby cries, a loud sad cry when it comes into this world, it is appropriate, because this sinful world is condemned, dying, horrid!*

B. *The born-again child’s cry is a happy one, it is joyous praise, even singing!*

³ Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**” John 3:3 (NKJV)

If one is not born again, there is no seeing of God’s kingdom, but when a person is born again, he or she STARTS SEEING, starts experiencing some of the glories, some of the joys of that kingdom –

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. ² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, and will trust in the LORD. Psalm 40:1–3 (NKJV)

3. *For the child of God, who is becoming “like Jesus” there is happiness even in sad or difficult situations -*

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:17 (NKJV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸ whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹ receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls. 1 Peter 1:6–9 (NKJV)

A. *This is why Paul and Silas could sing in chains, in prison –*

²² Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded *them* to be beaten with rods. ²³ And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. ²⁴ Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Acts 16:22–25 (NKJV)

B. *This is why the apostles rejoiced when beaten –*

⁴⁰ ... and when they had called for the apostles and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹ So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. ⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Acts 5:40–42 (NKJV)

IV. *Application:*

1. *Realize we all need help –*

³⁸ **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”** Mark 14:38 (NKJV)

Even if you do not, I know I do!

“... no one is fit for the kingdom of God until he has put aside such indulgence and has learned to desire the food of the soul so much that he is not hampered by his human appetite.” John Calvin

2. *Make sure you are saved –*

⁹ ... if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Romans 8:9 B

¹⁰ Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; 2 Peter 1:10 (NKJV)

3. *Pray for God’s Powerful Spirit’s Help – Luke 11:9-13*

4. *With that help, live, as a happy child of God –*

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Romans 8:16 (NKJV)