

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Today we start our journey through Romans Chapter 8. Before tackling the text of Romans we need to review Spirituality, specifically the topic of sanctification. But it is more than just a review. There is some new material borrowed from R.B. Thieme Jr. As a Christian, you are a saint. That is your title. It is royal aristocracy. With that aristocracy comes responsibility. A code of conduct.

Look at the chart below. It divides the Christian “experience” into three phases or tenses. A form of this chart is used by many Bible Church teachers. Its heritage traces back at least to L. S. Chafer. This particular chart was copied from Andy Woods of the Sugarland Bible Church and modified.

Phase	Justification	Sanctification	Glorification
Tense	Past	Present	Future
Saved from	Penalty of sin	Power of sin	Presence of sin
Scripture	Ephesians 2:8-9 Titus 3:5	Philippians 2:12 Romans 6	Hebrews 9:28 Romans 13:11

At the point of salvation believers receive the righteousness of God. This is the imputation of righteousness. God declares us righteous. That is called justification. The Greek word for justification is based upon the

¹ Based on https://cdn.slbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/07000720/SLBC-010_Soteriology-03_23_20161.pptx

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8
Romans 8

Greek word for righteousness. God declares us righteous: justification. Paul uses this word in Romans 5:1

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

After the initial point of salvation, the believer is in time between the point of salvation and the point of departure from earth (either physical death or the Rapture). That is called sanctification in the above chart. The question for the believer is “how do I live in time?” It is important to understand the relationship between the believer and God. How are we to live? That is where Bible teaching becomes important. The pastor-teacher, who has studied extensively, now teaches who God is, who we are as believers, our relationship to God and how we accomplish our divinely designated purpose.

What we have studied so far fits in nicely within this spectrum of Christian experience.

Romans chapters 1-2 identifies the need for salvation: the need for life and righteousness.

Romans chapter 3-4 identifies the solution, faith in Christ.

Romans chapter 5 is a transition from salvation phase 1 to the next phase of salvation: spirituality.

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8

Romans chapters 6-8 explains

- a) there is a need to not sin;
 - b) there is an ability to avoid sinning
 - c) there is a mandate to not sin
 - d) there is frustration of attempting to accomplish the Christian life dominated by sin nature and the Mosaic Law and
 - e) there is a mechanism for overcoming evil and for producing good.
- Paul has been pointing us toward chapter 8, the walk by faith dependence on the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 8 is one of the best if not the best chapter on the spiritual life. From time to time we may also visit other great chapters on spirituality: Galatians chapter 5, John chapter 15 and Ephesians chapter 5.

In order to have an informed understanding of the spiritual life in Romans chapter 8, there are some vocabulary words that need illumination.

There is a word group that is associated with the Christian life: sanctification. We already encountered this in chapter 6. It is in our tenses of salvation chart.

Herman gave me a treasure trove of notes from R. B. Thieme Jr. There are many hundreds of typed pages on Romans chapter 8! Just chapter 8. And other hundreds on the rest of the book of Romans. Let me quote Thieme on this word “sanctification.”

“Sanctification as a word means set apart as sacred, or set apart as consecrated. Now you could probably find that in almost any Greek dictionary, but what you’re not going to find is that it means God has a plan for your life, and sanctification is merely a way to describing that plan for your life. God has a plan for your life in three phases so

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8

sanctification comes in three phases, phase 1 sanctification, phase 2 sanctification, phase 3 sanctification.²”

"If you are christian your title is saint. You are a saint. You always thought that to act like a saint you had to go through life being miserable, anything that was fun, don't do it, anything that was pleasant, don't be there, if there is a reason to smile, stop, you're a saint. And if there's anything you enjoy, you can't do it on Sunday. Under the distortion, saint is a religious sucker, but under the Biblical concept saint is aristocracy. So get used to it, you're aristocracy, you're aristocracy, you were born again with a diamond studded gold spoon in your mouth and it's almost choking some of you. There is only one aristocracy that's going to last forever and you're in it.”

“Sanctification is the doctrinal classification of this aristocracy, so it's a whole lot more than just using little idiotic words that are meaningless, like "set apart unto God", no one knows what it means to be "set apart unto God", even though that's a good definition if you're kind of a simpleton and don't want to really get into it. But we're going to get into it, we have to understand sanctification before we can see the impact of Rom. 8, to me the greatest chapter in the Bible defining why you're here, what you're doing, and where you're going, and how you're going to get there and how you're not going to get there, take your choice, so it's a great chapter.³”

Let me summarize some of the other notes to Thieme's introduction to chapter 8.

Our status as believers in Jesus Christ is called “saint.” This is from the Greek word “αγιος.” The verb from this is “sanctification,” our topic. We typically say this means we have been separated to God. That is a good surface meaning. But it doesn't explore the depths of the meaning.

² R. B. Thieme Jr., Romans Tape 67 Message 1 (1977)

³ R. B. Thieme Jr., Romans Tape 67 Message 1 (1977)

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8

Saint is a title. Like a military rank, say of major or colonel or general. But we are all “saints.” As Thieme often points out, as “saints” we are royal family. We are aristocrats in the spiritual world. And that is not because of anything we did. It was the work and merit of Jesus Christ. We just believed. And keep in mind the instruction from Jesus:

Luke 12:48b ...From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

There is perhaps some benefit to look at our status as saints as a member of Christ’s army.

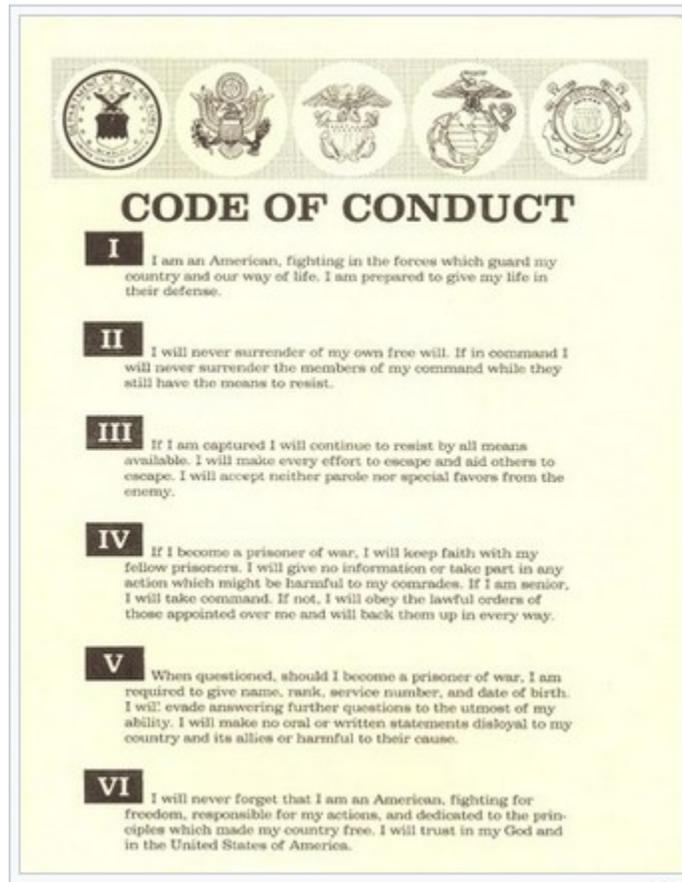
If we go back in history, we talk about “knights.” Perhaps you have heard of the order of Knights Templar. It was a religious-military order sanctioned by the Pope. At least for a while. They were a class of armed knights on mounted horses with the purpose of protecting Jerusalem and pilgrims to Jerusalem. They had a strict code of conduct. This is the important part. They had a code of conduct. From Wikipedia:

“Bernard de Clairvaux and founder Hugues de Payens devised a specific code of conduct for the Templar Order, known to modern historians as the Latin Rule. Its 72 clauses laid down the details of the knights' way of life, including the types of garments they were to wear and how many horses they could have. Knights were to take their meals in silence, eat meat no more than three times per week, and not have physical contact of any kind with women, even members of their own family.⁴”

4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_Templar

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8 Romans 8

In the US Air Force, during basic training, the trainees are given a code of conduct to memorize and live by. Code of Conduct.⁵



So too the believer, the saint, has a code of conduct defined by the Bible. It is interesting to note the analogy Paul makes between the believer and the Roman soldier in Ephesians chapter 6.

**Ephesians 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of His might.**

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_of_the_United_States_Fighting_Force

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8
Romans 8

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

Ephesians 6:14 Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

Ephesians 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8

The Roman soldier had a code of conduct. So do we. Also note that this illustration relates the believer, the saint, to the Angelic Conflict. Keep that in mind.

And remember what Herman taught. We do not go looking for a fight against demons. We are defense. Jesus Christ takes care of offense.

There is an illustration we can observe today: the royal family of the UK. They are governed by a strict code of conduct. They are being observed, photographed and tracked every day. Any infraction of their code of conduct is immediately reported in the hostile press.

So it is with the believers in the Church Age. Our king is Jesus Christ. Although not sitting on an earthly throne currently, we report to Him. We have a strict code of conduct: in fellowship through faith dependence on the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of the spirit starting with love OR we violate that code by dependence on the sin nature producing sin and human good which is abhorrent to God. Angels are constantly watching us. Satan and his minions are eager to report any violations of that code to God the Father. Some times, the Bible refers to this code of conduct as “love.”

The “sinning” believers of Corinth are called saints:

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling (?titled?), with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:

Saints. This is not just a nice word. It is a title we carry. We have a code of conduct. Romans chapters 6 and 7 demand that the believer avoid

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8
Romans 8

sinning. When we as Christians sin continuously, we dishonor our status. There are several places in the New Testament in which Paul either lists items in the code of conduct or lists sins that violate that code of conduct.

Romans 2:23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?

Romans 2:24 For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written.

Paul is going back to the Old Testament to illustrate this principle using the Mosaic Law for the Jews. They had broken their code of conduct, the Law. So we too when we sin, we have broken our code of conduct.

Modern popular culture identifies a “saint” as someone who is acting in the highest moral attitude. Our code of conduct mandates our behavior be perfectly moral. Each believer is a “saint.” We are mandated to walk in that code of conduct all the time. Most people do not conform to that standard all the time. Of course, we know that to please God, to actually follow the code of conduct, we must be walking in faith dependence on the Holy Spirit. Love comes from the faith dependence on the Holy Spirit, not by dependence on the sin nature, the flesh.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

More perspective from R. B. Thieme Jr.

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8

Romans 8

“Since we are aristocracy, we have to have a lot of related terms. Related terms taken from the same root. The root is $\alpha\gamma\iota\omicron$ and by adding a few suffixes we get some variations in our aristocracy. For example, $\alpha\gamma\iota\omicron\tau\eta\varsigma$, means holiness, which is the status quo of the royal family of God. We share His aristocracy, so not only are we holy or saints, as aristocracy title, but we are also in a state called holiness. It describes the principle by which all believers are related to the integrity of God, and the aristocracy of God. And then we should have a noun to cover us under all conditions and we have it, $\alpha\gamma\iota\omicron\sigma\upsilon\eta$, and it is translated “sanctification”, but it merely emphasizes the categorical stages of our aristocracy. We go through three stages, phase 1-salvation; phase 2-time, we go through time as aristocrats, some are good aristocrats and reach maturity and some are reversionistic and get disciplined, but all the way through life, since the day you were saved, you are aristocracy; and then you go to a third phase of aristocracy in heaven, and that’s when you get your aristocratic decoration, a resurrection body minus the old sin nature, minus human good.”

“This word sanctification relates aristocracy to God’s plan for the royal family of God. Another very similar word is $\alpha\gamma\iota\alpha\sigma\mu\omicron\varsigma$, translated in the King James at least three different ways, holiness, consecration, or sanctification, and it simply refers to investiture of aristocracy. It refers to the state of being made an aristocrat, and being made an aristocrat forever. God the H.S. in regeneration, baptism of the Spirit and His ministry provides for us a permanent aristocracy. So it also refers to the fact that the emphasis on our Lord’s battlefield royalty is His integrity, and it emphasizes especially our relationship to the integrity of God, and finally there is a verb, not to be overlooked or ignored, $\alpha\gamma\iota\alpha\zeta\omega$, means to make holy, to consecrate, to sanctify, and it simply means appointed by the justice of God aristocracy forever. But being aristocracy forever means God therefore has a purpose for aristocracy. All aristocracies in

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8
Romans 8

history started out as working aristocracies, a knight on a horse became a working aristocracy. And it's only the second generation or the third generation who kind of sat around and enjoyed the benefits, but weren't really in the aristocratic function of things. And $\alpha\gamma\iota\alpha\zeta\omega$ means that God has for us an aristocratic function. That aristocratic function is called maturity adjustment to the justice of God.”

“The word “saint” is a title of our royalty, and “sanctify”, the verb, and all of the synonyms refer to the fact that the royal family of God is being called out in this dispensation.”

“Now this means that you as a believer have a life with meaning and purpose and definition, and that your life should be extremely meaningful and your purpose must be accomplished as far as God is concerned. Never in history has it been so important for you to understand this issue, and therefore you are an aristocrat by the second birth, and as royalty you have great responsibility, but that responsibility is related to the Word of God, your attitude toward Bible doctrine. That responsibility is related to spiritual growth, and sanctification is the word which is used in order to clarify these issues. Therefore we must understand salvation as a sanctification and we must understand that the agent of this sanctification is the LJC.⁶”

	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Scripture	Hebrews 10:10	2 Thessalonians 2:13	1 Corinthians 15
Set Apart	Baptism of the Holy Spirit	Filling of the Holy Spirit	Resurrection Body

6 R. B. Thieme Jr., Romans Tape 67 Message 2 (1977)

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8
Romans 8

Hebrews 10:8 After saying above, “**SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE *in them*” (which are offered according to the Law),**

Hebrews 10:9 then He said, “**BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL.**” He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Since we are about to delve into the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in the Christian life, let us review what He does at the point of salvation. What did the Holy Spirit do to get us started in the Christian life?

1. The Unbeliever Receives Efficacious Grace
2. The Unbeliever is Regenerated
3. The Believer is Sealed by the Holy Spirit
4. The Believer is Baptized by the Holy Spirit
5. The Believer is Indwelt by the Holy Spirit
6. The Believer Receives Spiritual Gifts from the Holy Spirit
7. The Believer is Filled by the Holy Spirit

Introduction to Romans Chapter 8 Romans 8

I am not going into detail on these for two reasons. This is not the focus of Romans 8. The ministries of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life after the point of salvation/justification is. Secondly, I have taught this in a three lesson series under Guest Speakers back in 2020.

Flow of Romans⁷

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE	THE THREE TYPES OF SINNERS	THE THREE TENSES OF SALVATION		THE NATION OF ISRAEL	THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
		JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION GLORIFICATION		
1:1-17	1:18-3:20	3:21-5:21	6-8	9-11	12-16
Accountable for the Gospel 1:1-5	The Immoral Sinner 1:18-32	Justification Explained 3:21-31	Sanctification Positional 6:1-10	Past: Chosen 9:1-33	Serving the Church 12:1-21
Addressees The Romans 1:6-7	The Moral Sinner 2:1-16	Justification Exemplified 4:1-25	Sanctification Practical 6:11-8:17	Present: Sidelined 10:1-21	Serving the Society 13:1-14
Aspirations in the Gospel 1:8-15	The Religious Sinner 2:17-3:8	Justification's End Results 5:1-11	Glorification 8:18-39	Future: Reinstated 11:1-32	Serving the Weak 14:1-23
					Service through Christ 15:1-33
Acclamation of the Gospel: Salvation to all who believe 1:16-17	Conclusion: All Are Sinners 3:9-20	Identification: In Adam All Die In Christ All Live 5:11-21	Jubilation: we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us 8:37	Doxology: To God Be The Glory 11:33-36	Warm Greetings Serious Warnings Special Mentions 16:1-27

Flow of Romans 1-8



⁷ <https://deanbible.org/dbmfiles/slides/2016-DM2-Romans1-8-001.pdf>