

**Date:** 16.08.2020

**Time:** 11am

**Service taken by:** Rev Gavino Fioretti

**Reading:** Romans 8

**Text:** Romans 8:12-17

**Outline: Christian privileges**

a) Introduction

1. God-given freedom

2. Holy life

3. Glorious adoption

### **Christian privileges**

- **Introduction**

Romans chapter 8 reminds us how blessed and privileged we are as God's people. There is now no condemnation, we are delivered. There are many privileges for believers.

#### **1) God-given freedom**

**From the power of the flesh:** Before, we were debtors to the flesh, owned by the flesh and servants to it. The flesh cannot obey God's law or please Him. We're now free from the power, influences and desires of the flesh. By God's grace in Christ and by the Spirit's ministry to us, we're no longer slaves to the flesh.

Why do we keep sinning? Why do we continue to follow the influence of the flesh? We don't need to follow the desires of the flesh, but we do because we want to. We wrongly believe that the flesh can satisfy our desires. We listen to the devil and to our own depraved hearts and so we follow the desires of the flesh.

But we're free to say no to sin. We're no longer debtors to the flesh, but to God.

**From the power of fear:** Fear can be paralysing. Before, we lived in fear but now we're free from fear. There is a right fear – the fear of God. For many, fear of God's wrath leads them to look to God for salvation. But there is fear that keeps us from serving and honouring God. The devil points us to our sin and failures and we doubt God's forgiveness and our salvation. Fear of God should lead us to devotion to Him and His kingdom. But wrong fear leads to despair. Many live in unholy and unhelpful fear, but we've received the spirit of adoption, not fear.

## **2) Holy life**

**The Spirit's help:** Left to ourselves, we can't live a life that pleases God. By God's Spirit, we can live a holy life. Holiness is not possible because we try hard, but because God's Spirit is in us. By the Spirit's power, we can say no to sin, we can reject sin and disobey the will and desires of the flesh. God in His grace has not left us to ourselves. God Himself allows us to say no to sin and yes to righteousness. How often we've underused this amazing privilege. We try to fight the flesh and the world in our strength, when the power of God is at our disposal.

**The Spirit's guide:** The Spirit guides us – not by visions or feelings, but by the Word of God. All of God's Word is God-breathed. In this battle, we're not alone. God's Spirit and power allows us to put sin to death. As God's people, we're not alone.

**The Spirit's witness:** The Spirit witnesses to us. We're not fighting from our own witness, but in God's strength. As our Father, God loves, cares for and provides for us. God reassures us. If you doubt your salvation, your desperation and your uncertainty makes your witness and your life very hard. The Spirit reassures us that we're not alone. We are more than conquerors in Jesus.

## **3) Glorious adoption**

**The evidence:** God has adopted us into His family to be His children. When we examine ourselves, we look for good in us rather than looking for the Spirit within us. The more we look at ourselves, the less good we will find. We need the Spirit of God within us. Christ promised the Spirit of God to His people. A mark of the child of God is that the Spirit of God is within us.

**The familiarity:** Because of the Spirit, we can call God "Abba, Father". He is our Heavenly Father and this brings with it familiarity. God is holy, He is on the throne, but He is also our Father. He listens to us. He does us good as our Father. He's our Father and we're familiar with Him. We have access to Him as our Father that the world does not have. God's throne for us is not one of justice, but of grace.

**The certainty:** It's difficult to call God our Father, especially in prayer, if we're unsure of our salvation. We long to be assured of our salvation. We're so afraid of self-deception and we're so aware of our own failings. We long for the Spirit to witness with ours that we are children of God. As God's children, there's a certainty and assurance that we should have as His children.

**The inheritance:** We're joint heirs with Christ. God brought us into His very own family and shares with us what is His. That inheritance by right belongs to Christ alone, but He is willing to share His inheritance with us. All that is His is ours. We are privileged indeed to be children of God.

## **4) Spiritual unity**

**Suffer with him:** If we're God's children, we'll experience suffering (Jesus' example shows us this). When we suffer, we're suffering with Him. It's the portion of a son to suffer with Him.

**Glorified with him:** As we suffer with Him, we're glorified with Him. If you're a child of God you'll be glorified with God. If you're a child of God, you're free from the flesh and sin. In the eyes of the world, we might be no-one, but God's made us His children. We are privileged indeed.