

## “Where’s Your Mind”

Romans 8:5-9

### Transcript

Well hey, it's good to be here. It's good to see you all. It's been a while since we've had everybody. Like most people here, we're still missing some folks, but man, it's just good to be out and thaw out a little bit. You know, this weather wasn't in the brochure when I was on my way here. And I don't remember it ever being like this when I was a kid. I mean, I grew up in Peoria, but it didn't snow like this in Peoria. I don't know. It's not cool. It's not cool. It's not cool at all.

So, for those of you that are new here, just kind of following along with us. We are a church that's a Bible church, which means that we just kind of go through the Bible and we study the Bible and the main reason that I do that is because otherwise I'm cherry picking right? What I want to do. I said Oh well, we need to know this, right? We need to know that? And really, I'm not smart enough to figure out what kind of series to do. So, I just pick a book of the Bible and I just run right through it. That's what we're doing.

We've been in Romans for a while and we're moving along. We're in the 8th chapter, which is really the pinnacle of the Book of Romans. Everything kind of goes up to this pinnacle that we're at right now, which is how do you live as a Christian? How are you gonna do that? It's one thing to give your life to Christ. It's another to actually live what you were called to live; completely different deal. And so last week, what we learned is that believers can live the lives God called them to, but it doesn't happen by gritting your teeth and saying I'm going to try really hard to not sin. Today I'm going to try really hard and I'm going to obey the first commandment and the 2nd commandment. That's not really the way God called us to live the Christian life and a lot of people; That's how they do it. And as a result, if you try to live a God sized life, do what God wants you to do and what he's called you to and you try to do it in your flesh, like just with your own willpower now, willpower is involved. I'm not saying that you don't. You're will isn't a part of that, but if you try to do it that way, you will fail and fail and fail. And the next thing you know, you're like, “boy, am I even a Christian? What's going on? Right?” How is it that? That God called me to be this person and I look nothing like what he says I am?

And so, what we've been finding is that he calls us to be saved. But what he does as far as living it is we believe God. It's by faith, OK? So it was by faith that you became a Christian, but then it's also by faith that you live as a Christian. And here's what mean by that. You believe what God says about who you are. God tells you when you're saved that since it happened, you died to the old person. That old person died. You died to sin. Well, a lot of us don't live as though we believe that. You don't. You don't believe that. You're like, no, I didn't die to sin. I still live in sin. I'm still going to put myself into sin. No! God said this! Do you believe God or not?

Now he's trying to tell you what are the things that you should know about who you are and believe? What are the things that you should trust in, that God says about who you are? And verse one of chapter eight said this, that there is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. So, what we oftentimes do in our Christian life, and this had to do with last week, is we walk through our Christian life and we mess up and so we believe that we're condemned. You're like, you

feel all this condemnation and you're like, boy, I might as well just throw in the towel because I'm condemned and he's trying to explain to you no, you are not. God cannot condemn you of your sin if you are in Christ Jesus. You know why? Because God can't condemn Jesus. If you are in Christ, He can't condemn you, and so the picture that I used last week is that this is Christ and this is you. And if you're in Christ, God can't condemn Jesus because all of the sin has already been condemned on the cross. It's already been done, and what he's saying is believe it. Believe it. Have some faith. Believe that I really did what I said I did when you gave your life to me, OK?

Now, before we get into this section, we did 4 verses last week. Boy, we were cruising. So, this week we're in verse 5 and we're gonna try to make some progress, but you're gonna get confused if I don't explain something to you as far as how this word is used. So how many of you know that we've been using the word "righteousness" a lot? This book is all about righteousness. Yes, one person. And what is righteousness? Righteousness comes from the word, "right". Well, right with what? Right with God. I'm right with God. What does that mean? It means that when God looks at me or when God looks at Christ, he says he is worthy of my presence. He is worthy to be in my presence. And so, if you are worthy, if you are righteous, it means that you have the worth given to you by Christ. You are in Christ and you are worth something.

Now, for most people, one of the major problems we have in the world, is that people think they're not worthy. I have no worth at all. And so, you'll see kids in and teenagers. They get into all kinds of trouble because they're trying to prove their worth. You've got adults do the same thing. They're trying to prove their worth, and they're trying to find their worth in this or find their worth in that, you know, I wanna be worth something or I'm going to find my worth in money or I'm going to find my worth in getting the most likes on my Instagram. Or I'm going to find my worth in this, that somehow then I'm going to be worthy. And the problem is that you'll never be worthy that way. You're just going to continue to do this so God tells us the way we have our worth. We find our total worthiness in Christ. It is through Christ that we are made righteous. Before we knew Christ, we were not. We had no worth. Now, we were worth something to God. We were worth his death on the cross. But we weren't worthy to be in the presence of God. We were separated from God. But Christ imputes. It's imputed righteousness. He gives you his righteousness.

Your old lack of righteousness died on the cross, and so when you get baptized, it's symbolizing that you died to your old self. Your you died to the old, unworthy person. You were united with Christ and you are right. You are raised spiritually righteous.

OK, catch this. You are raised spiritually righteous. That means that spiritually you are without sin. Because if you're in Christ, Christ is without sin. So spiritually you are without sin. Once you give your life to Christ. Here's the problem. You still got flesh. Right? You're not just a one-dimensional person. You are a spiritual person. That's your nature, your spirit. And then you have a body. Your spirit has been completely redeemed. Your body has not. Your body will be redeemed. There'll be a resurrection. You'll get a new body and you'll be redeemed. Until then, You are still flesh, right?

So, what's going to get confusing here in this passage is that he's going to talk about righteousness, and you're going to say what kind of righteousness am I talking about? Am I talking about the righteousness that I believe I have? Because Christ says I have it because I'm in Christ, that I have a hard time seeing, right? It's invisible, right? It's invisible, but it's something that's there through faith. I

know. I am right with God. I know I am righteous. That's a kind of righteousness. I would call that the "Who you are Righteousness". But there's another kind of righteousness that Paul is talking about. He's going to talk about that here, which I call the "Visible righteousness". OK? And that's the righteousness that we can see. So just because you are righteous doesn't mean that necessarily as we walk through life; I'm looking at your life or you're looking at my life and you're like, "he don't always look righteous. Huh. I don't know about that guy", right? But God says he's righteous because he's in Christ. He's spiritually righteous. But boy, when I look at him visibly, boy not righteous.

And what Paul's trying to do is help you to understand how do you get yourself to become more in the body's righteous? OK. That's the process that we know as sanctification. We are becoming more like Christ. We are becoming more like him, right? So as Christians, we're supposed to act like Him spiritually right now. You're like Him spiritually. But we're to act like him, too.

And so, let me show you. Let's go back to verse 3 in a Chapter 8. If you've got a Bible you'll want to open up. If you don't have a Bible, we've got them in the back and you can take one for free. Put your name in it, and that'll be yours. It says in verse three, "for what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the by the flesh". What does that mean? What you were unable to do in your body, right? The law was powerless to do. The law was telling you live this way live this way. Live this way. Do this. Do that. Do this. You were unable to do it because you were doing it in the flesh. That's what it's saying. For what? "The law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh. God did, by his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh. To be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh." Watch this. Why did he condemn it in the flesh? In order that the righteous requirement of the law? In other words, the behavior that the law requires might be fully met in us. "who do not live according to the flesh, but according to the spirit". OK. So just because you became a Christian doesn't automatically mean that you act like Jesus. That's the point, right?

So it goes here, spiritually though, you are like Christ. You gotta get that in your head! There is no condemnation for you because you are in Christ Jesus, alright? And it's because the spirit is redeemed and fully righteous, but your body hasn't been redeemed yet. And how do I know your body hasn't been redeemed yet? Because you're gonna die. You're dying. Actually, 30 years ago, I didn't look like this. I looked pretty young and skinny. And I looked a lot more alive than I do now, right? And as we get a little older, all of a sudden you just just, we're starting to look like it ain't going to last a much longer, right? This guy, especially the stuff he's doing right. Look at that guy. He makes some dumb choices. He ain't going to because we're going to die, right? Why? Because we have a physical body, right? That's how I know. That's how I know. Because I'm dying, I don't have a resurrected body yet, so look at verse 10 today. Let's skip over to verse 10. Can we throw verse 10 up there? I'm kind of skipping around, but I want to make sure we get this. It says in verse 10. "But if Christ is in you then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the spirit gives life because of righteousness." Your spirit is righteous. Your body is dying. And so, what our passage today is about is what determines if you live righteously? What determines and makes you live the way God's wants.

How is it that some people are able to live Christian lives and you're like, man, how does that person live that? Because that's what we all want. How does that person make that decision? How do they overcome that temptation? How do they know the right thing to say? How are they living that kind of a life, right? And the answer that he gives you is this. **What determines how you live is what you set your mind on.** OK, that's what he said at the beginning of chapter one. Where is it that you set

your mind? Your mind has control of this deal, so if you set your mind, it says on the flesh. I set my mind on doing for me all about me all about getting for myself all about my own pleasure, all about money. If it's all about the flesh, if that's what I set my mind on, then that's what I'll become. But if I get up every day and I set my mind on the Spirit. And I say, "God. I set my mind on you. God, I wanna live for you. I wanna do what I want and I'm in this fleshly body God and it's hard. I don't know how I'm going to pull this off. But boy God my mind is set on you. That's what I want. I sure want it when I get in a conversation to say the right thing and not say something stupid. I sure want it when I hit my thumb noot say that word, but say nothing. I sure wanna obey him and not and not fall. That's what I want. God. God give me the power to do that. God, I'm going to listen to you - the You in me and not the me and me. Hmm.

OK, so let's open up verse five. We're going to get into this. That was the intro. You're like, thank you. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires. That's what it just said, right? But those who live in accordance with the spirit have their mind set on what the spirit desires. So here's what that's saying. That as a Christian, I got two options. Now some people don't don't believe this, but it seems obvious to me that that's true. You have two options. As a believer, you're saved. You gave your life to Christ. He redeemed you. You have faith and put your faith in him, right? There's not a lot of conditions to that, but you put your faith, you repented, you says yes, I want to follow you. But you're either going to manifest righteousness in your life as the law demands. Or you won't manifest righteousness in your life. And that depends on what you set your mind on. That's what he's saying. That's what he's saying. So what is the flesh desire? Flesh desires. Things like pleasure. I want pleasure. Right. I want money. I want enjoyment. I want respect. Those those and it's you're you're you're after that. Those are things that that the flesh wants now I'm not even saying those things are bad. Those things aren't necessarily bad. It's not bad to have money if you got money, that's great. What matters is what are you pursuing and what are what have you set your mind on? Right. Because I know a lot of people that that have set their mind on Christ and God's blessing and giving them lots of money, right? And God uses them in great ways. I know people that have a lot of respect. Very well respected people and God uses them in a mighty way. It's not. That those things are bad. It is what have you set your mind on? If God gives you that, that's perfect. If God gives you money, that's great. If God gives you pleasure, I mean most believers, I could tell you. I mean, there's a lot of things that are pleasurable in life. As a believer. There's some things that aren't. But it's not like we don't experience any pleasure as believers, and so you can seek God and God will give you joy, and he'll give you, give you wonderful things that you're like, man, this fills my heart. This is fantastic. God will give. God gives that to us still. So it's not that these things are bad, but it's what are you setting your. Mind on. What are you? What are you striving for? Right. So the mindset of the flesh and being respected versus the mindset of the spirit and being respected. You know you can have both the mindset and the spirit and pleasure versus the mindset of flesh and pleasure. And why is that? Let me get into this verse 5 or verse six. Here's why the mind governed by the flesh is death. What does governed mean? So the mind that is ruled and determines what's going to happen right in your life and how you're going to act and what you're going to do and what decisions you're going to make in the direction. Right. So we have a governing body in our country and they like it or not will determine based on who's there, the direction you're going to go. Right. So you'll have a Republican or a Democrat and and they will go vastly different directions on how the country will go. Your mind is the same way. The flesh, if you live in the flesh, the flesh will lead you in a certain way and you won't act according to God. The spirit, if you follow the spirit and you surrender yourself to the spirit, say

I want to follow you. I. Want to do? What? You want? God. God give me. The strength to do it. You will go in that direction like it will. Change the way you act. So here's the secret sauce. The people that you know that are really great Christians that obey God, and they look and they they're like, man, how do they do that? How are they so faithful to God? How do they do that? It's not because they grit their teeth and they try really hard. It's not because they have more willpower than you. That's not how they do it. It's because they surrender to God and say God, I really want what you want. Empower me to do it, and because they're always seeking what God wants and their mind is set on that. Their life is different. And they start to make decisions that that are that are godly decisions cause they want to do that and so they make decisions of their will their that way and then they become habits. In their life. And now they can't lie. Because they they're habitual truth tellers, they're habitual evangelists. They're habitual, and they're able to do it, cause they have success because God empowers them to do it. This is the God sized life that he's calling all of us at sunrise to live. He's calling us to live this type of a life and he's given us the answer right here in the Bible. It's so cool. So cool. And so this isn't saying that that you can't have pleasure. It's not saying you can't have money. You can't have enjoyment you can't respect. But we'll throw this on the screen. Our desires must be ordered by God's spirit. That's the issue. What's the order? What's the what's the order? So you have all kinds of desires. We have all kinds of desires, right? I have desires. You have this desire, that desire. And so sometimes my desire to save money is overcome by my desire for a Pepsi right. And it's got more power. It's like, oh, man, there's a lot of power running in me, man. I'm starting to get the jitters and I'm like, come on now and and so. There's different. There's different things that are within me. And I almost lost my train of thought there because of. That, but what? Happens is as a Christian, you got to order well. What's the most important? What's the most important? I think I've told you this before. One of the difference between Buddhism, you know, Buddhism right. There's the Buddha and he looks a lot like me. And Buddha, Buddha used to here's what Buddha is know about Buddhism is about. You have desires, right? And the key to Buddhism is that because you have desires, sometimes those desires aren't met. They're not fulfilled. So you got a desire for a new house, but you don't get a new house. And so there's angst. There's, I don't feel good about that. I wish I had that. There's there's a frustration about that. Or I I want that life. And so you're like. But I didn't get that wife and now you're. You're envy we. Would call it coveting, but they would call it angst because you didn't get what your desire is. And so the answer in Buddhism is this. Buddhism says eliminate the desire and then you won't have the angst. So if so, that's how. That's how they answer us. So you get into a state and you try to get real quiet and you try to figure out how can I eliminate all the desire in my life. And if I don't desire anything, I won't be disappointed. And I won't have angst. The Christian way is completely different. The Christian way. Is this what Christians do is we order our desires. We know there's going to be desires. We're going to have fleshly desires. And we're going to want to live according to the flesh and those desires to submit to those. But as a Christian, we are called to set our mind on the things of God. And so seek ye first, the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, right and all these other things will will fall into place, because I've set my mind in the correct place. You follow me. Follow me on that. All right, let's look at verse 60. I did verse 60. Here's where it gets a little tricky. It says the mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the spirit is life and peace. Now, what does that mean? Does that mean that if I have any desires of the flesh, then I'm going to die? Is that what's talking about cause cause I thought that in. The spirit. I thought that in the spirit I had life right and I had eternal life. So what's it talking about here now? It's not uncommon in the Bible, especially if you go into the Psalms to find that it will talk about death in

ways that are present death. Right. So though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil. Or how can I fear if I'm? Not still alive, right? So I'm in the valley of death. I'm going through death. I'm experiencing death because death is anything contrary to God. Anything that is not surrendered to God. It brings death. And when we seek righteousness that brings life. OK, So what he's talking about here are what? Are the things. That that you. Will notice become death in your life. So if your mind is set on what is fleshly desires, you're going to have things like fear in. Your life. Because that's contrary to God, right? You'll have fear. You're gonna have broken relationships are always a result. Of sin, always a result of, and that's death. Death is is life for relationships, right. It's going to be emptiness. You're going to feel emptiness, right? If you feel emptiness, that's because you're you're filling yourself with flesh and it's death. Right, you're experiencing the result of the death of sin in your life presently. Or you're going to feel insecurity. I don't feel any security. Why do I not feel secure? Why don't feel secure? Because I don't have the security of God. Cause I I've separated myself from God by the things I do. And the way I live. And now I now it's death on me and the mind governed by the spirit. It says it's life and peace. So that's going to be the exact opposite of that, right. Good peace. Peace is good. You like peace. Peace is a plus. Peace equals good. God gives us peace in our life. He gives us. The opposite of. Of fear he gives US security, gives us confidence. Just don't have confidence in the flesh. And so verse seven, it says the mind governed by the flesh. This is the reason why this is the reason why these are death. These are death. The the mind governed by the flesh. Here's why it's death. Verse 7 the mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God. That's why it's death, because your natural fleshly body is hostile to God. It wants to do contrary to what God wants you to do because you were born in Adam's rebellion. You're born in rebellion. We all are. And so when we live in the flesh, we'll be doing stuff in our power of flesh we'll be doing. Things that are hostile to God. And that brings about these attributes of death in our life. OK. Hostility to God is death because it separates you from life, which is God. If God is life and you separate yourself from him. Then you're going to experience death in your life and decay. And so it says. Here let's let's pop over here to to verse verse 9 before I do, let me put one more thing on the. Screen before you. Came to Christ. You only had one option for where you would set your mind. OK, so before you were a Christian, you had one option to where you set your mind because you didn't have the spirit of God. God had and put his Holy Spirit in you. So we had one option, flesh. So you made decisions all your decisions were made on the flesh. You had one option. OK, that's where it is. That's all you had. And what the spirit of God wants. Or what my flesh wants. Those are completely different. And so at this point, you might be thinking, am I? Am I in the realm of the flesh? Cause here it talks about you. However, in the realm of the flesh are not in. The realm of the flesh. But of the spirit. So what we do is we look at ourselves. This is what Paul saying. You're looking at yourself and you're like you look what you think that you're in the realm of the flesh because you're seeing things that are fleshly in your life. You're seeing things that are hostile to God. You see those in your life. And so you say to yourself, I must be in the flesh. And So what Paul is doing is. Here is he wants you to see the reality of who you are. The Who I am, righteousness versus the the visible righteousness. And he wants you to grab onto the fact that in reality, because you put your faith in. You really are in the realm of the spirit, it says verse nine. You, however, are not in the realm of the of the flesh, but are in the realm of the spirit. Now how do I know that if? How do I know that if indeed the spirit of God lives in you? And if anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. So here, here's another deal that has that that he gives us here. If you are a Christian. If you've surrendered your life to Christ. Then you have the Holy Spirit. Now some people will try to tell you differently that. This was about as clear as it

gets. Some will try to tell you that you don't receive the Holy Spirit when you get saved. You receive the Holy Spirit later, in a separate manifestation. Right. And I'm not saying that you can't receive the Holy Spirit and experience the power of God in a different way, right? I mean, I've that's happened in my own life. But when you became a Christian. You were given the Holy Spirit, it says it right here. It says you, however, are not in their own flesh and it's saying, how do I know? Basically, if I'm in the flesh or from the spirit, it depends if you have the Holy Spirit, which means if you're a Christian, that's how he determines it. So when you put your faith in Christ, you ended up leaving this realm, this realm of the flesh, and you went into this realm of the spirit. So now that the spirit lives in you, now you have two choices. You can choose whether to set your mind on Christ, or you can choose whether to. Set your mind on the flesh. You have options. I'm not saying they're both good options, but I'm saying that there's a lot of Christians that live out there that are saved, but they choose to live in the flesh. But the reality is there's no condemnation for them. Christ has saved them. They're in Christ. They have the Holy Spirit. They don't have to choose that anymore. You don't have to choose to live in the flesh anymore. You don't have to do the bidding of sin. You don't have to disobey God. You have the Holy Spirit to enable you to choose Christ. And how do you do it? By setting your mind on the things of God. Setting your mind on Christ, setting your mind on him. I didn't get nearly as far as I wanted to get today. I have nine more verses. But we will have to carry that over. How do you live a Christian life? That's some people ask all the time that like I'm a Christian. But you know, I try really hard. It's like, well, then you've already lost. We live a Christian life by setting our mind on the things of God and what kind of things could you do to set your mind on the things of God. You could some of you like to listen to Christian music on the radio, right? You're going to work and you listen to Christian music. You get up in the morning and you open up his word and. You say God teach me something today. And what you're saying here I want. To do it, because this is your word and this is this is a guide for how I should live. And so God, show me what to do. Tell me what to do. Let me think about it. And I'm going to decide. I'm going to live for you. Holy Spirit, I pray and say God, I surrender my life to you. You're in charge of my life. And so, though I'm going to want to use Super authority and and get in charge of my life on my own, I I want to follow you. Just give me the power when I get tempted to go the other way, give me the power. Give me the determination. Remind me that there is no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus and that I have the Holy Spirit that I am. I am really a righteous person and spirit, and I'm just fighting flesh here. Remind me of that God. God, I surrender to you. God, I'm going to live for you this day. Everyone of us here at sunrise. Imagine what would happen to this town, or imagine what would happen in Geneseo and acts and in Cambridge and all these places if you had a bunch of people walking in the power of the spirit living actual Christian lives, Can you imagine if Christians lived Christian lives, what would happen? God, we just ask you to come into this place. God, we ask you to fill us with your spirit. God and even right now, while we're together, United as a church, we are choosing as people redeemed by you as people who have the Holy Spirit. So we have a choice. Whether to set our mind on the things of Christ or to set our things in the things of the flesh. God, we are choosing. To set our mind on the things. Of the spirit. We're going to set our mind on Jesus. We're going to set our mind on obeying God and loving God and loving his people. And on you providing for us and you given us the power.

To do this.

God, we just we just surrender and God give us the power when we're tempted to to turn to get as we offer ourselves as living sacrifices, and we we, because we're living, we want to get off the altar. God,

that we'll jump back on God, that you'll pull us back. You'll give us the power to live as you want us to live. We love you. God. You are our God. God, I'm excited to see where you go through this.