

**Prayer of the Week:**

*Almighty God, give us the increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you have promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

*(Source: Book of Common Prayer 2019, Collects of the Christian Year, Proper Fourteen)*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.*

*We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.*

*And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

**Dead Yet Alive****Romans 8:9-13 (NTE)**

August 9th, 2020

**Recap**

We are working our way backward through Romans 8. We began with vss. 28-30 where we learned that God works in the midst of all things....with us....for the good.

Glory, when applied to humanity, is an elevation of status or authority. Creation is waiting for the children of God to be glorified (take their rightful place as co-rulers over new creation).

Christian hope is not the same as optimism or escape, but is rooted in resurrection. When the world was headed toward death, God intervened in the person of Jesus Christ, so that new creation and resurrection has begun right in our midst.

**Body of Death, Spirit of Life**

In the middle section of Romans 8 (vss. 5-11), Paul makes a couple of comparisons. He contrasts the flesh and the spirit as well as sin and the Spirit. Take a look at verse 10, *“the body is indeed dead because of sin, but the spirit is life because of covenant justice.” (NTE)*

There are sinful actions, but there is also the reality of the power of sin. Sin as a power is the intangible thing that draws us to sin actions. This, Paul says, has consequences for creation (vss. 19-21) and our bodies (vs. 10).

But, Paul goes on to say in verse 11, the spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives within you, the one who raised the Messiah will give life to your moral bodies through that spirit.

This leave us with quite a conundrum. What does it mean to have a body of death and yet live with the spirit of life?

Martin Luther used a Latin phrase to describe this inner tension: *Simul justus et peccator*, which means “at once righteous yet a sinner.”

New Testament scholar John Barclay suggests this latin phrase: *Simul mortuus et vivens*, which means “at once dead yet alive.”

Our bodies bear the marks of the old order of things and have become subject to death.

BUT, Paul says, the Spirit inside of us is a downpayment of the new order of things. Our bodies are subjected to the old creation, but the Spirit inside of us bears witness to the new creation that is yet to come!

So, we are dead (we live in a body that has been subjected to death because of sin as a power) and yet alive (the same Spirit that raised Christ lives in us).

### **So What?**

Verse 12-13, “So then, my dear family, we are in debt - but not to human flesh, to live our life in that way. if you live in accordance with the flesh, you will die; but if, by the spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

It used to be that we had a bent toward sin and things that lead to death and it appeared we had no choice but to live according to the old sinful ways. But now, because of the Spirit, we have a new obligation to Christ and his Spirit within us.

Think of it this way: It used to be that the highway of our lives was a one-way highway. The only choice was to go in the way of old creation, the old order. Now, through the Spirit who lives in us, another lane has opened up and we can go in another direction! We don't have to go in the direction of the old order, the old way, we can now move in the direction of new creation. Our lives now have a new trajectory.

And we have a role to play and a choice to make. Do we live in accordance with the first order which results in death. Or do we live according to the Spirit of life?