

## **God's Marvelous Plan**

### **Rom 8:1-8**

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 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.  
NKJV

Long ago God created a perfect creation. It was filled with hundreds of thousands of species of creatures that are now extinct. There was not death or suffering. Even the animals lived in perfect harmony with one another. Man was God's greatest of the material creations. Given a free will man was created for fellowship with the Almighty. Man was God's partner in over seeing this wonderful creation. God gave him dominion over the whole world.

But there was a rebel in the garden. A rebel that hated God and wanted to replace Him. He also wanted to disrupt the relationship between God and man. So he set out to do that. He deceived the woman and brought God's own curse on mankind and the whole of creation. It seemed that the devil had a great victory that day. Man now also a rebel against God.

Will God be able to salvage His perfect creation? Will He be able to reconcile man to Himself? Will He be able to have final victory over those who oppose Him? How will He do that? What can He do to make all things right once again?

Well God has a marvelous plan. A perfect plan that will overcome all of man's sin and failures. A plan that even Satan cannot supplant. Not a plan that gives man the glory but one that glorifies only Himself, a plan that is so simple that a child can understand it but so sublime that the wisest men of our world stumble at and fail to see.

I. What man can't do.

A. Man's depravity keeps him in a state of sin and failure.

1. Those that are in the flesh cannot please God.

a. Rom 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God .  
NKJV

b. No only is it that they will not, they cannot please God.

c. They are not able.

d. John 3:3, 6 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."

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. NKJV

2. If man was able, then Jesus did not need to die in our place.
  3. If man is able, then all we need to do is do it.
  4. We certainly do not need a Savior if that is the case.
- B. The law was not given as a means to fix man's case.
1. Some supposed that by keeping the law, or any law that man might work his way into approval with God.
  2. That was Paul's case before he met Jesus.
  3. But the law's inability to make us perfect was not due to the law.
    - a. It was due to the weakness of the flesh.
    - b. Rom 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh
    - c. The law is a reflection of the moral standards of God and thus our inability to keep it goes back to our depravity.
  4. The law was meant to show us our inability so that we might come to God for mercy.
    - a. Gal 3: 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. NKJV
    - b. By an honest look at the law and an evaluation of how we are doing we can see that we are law breakers.
    - c. Have you ever taken something that didn't belong to you?
    - d. Have you ever told a lie.
    - e. Have you ever had lustful thought.
    - f. Then according to the Bible you're a lying, thieving adulterer.

## II. God did. (Period)

- A. By sending His Son.
1. Not to give us an example.
    - a. We already have the standard in the law and we cannot keep it.
    - b. We do not need to try the measure up to Jesus for that is a fallacy.
    - c. We could no more live a perfect life like Jesus did than to create a world.

2. As a perfect man to keep every law and every command of God.
  3. But as the Lamb of God to take away our sin He came.
  4. He came to give His life a ransom for many.
  5. He came to seek and save those who were lost.
- B. In the likeness of sinful flesh.
1. Jesus looked like us because He was like us.
  2. But there was no sin in Him, nothing wrong, no shortcomings.
  3. He came in the flesh.
    - a. In order to be our substitute.
    - b. He did not take on the nature of angels but of man to suffer and die as a man in order to make an atonement for our sins.
  4. But not sinful flesh.
- C. That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.
1. He has satisfied the right of obedience, in that He has fulfilled the whole law of God in our stead.
  2. He has satisfied the right of punishment, in that He has endured all the wrath which was due to us for our transgression of God's law.
  3. Christ's satisfaction of the law, as concerning obedience unto it, is accounted as ours; inasmuch as the righteousness of the law is said to be fulfilled in us. Thomas Horton, D. D. (from The Biblical Illustrator Copyright (c) 2002 AGES and BibleSoft, Inc.)

“The action of the law is by precept and constraint -- it seeks to guide from without -- urging its minute details upon a reluctant heart. The gospel frees us from this bondage of verbal precepts and details, and by the manifestation of God's love awakens love, thus beginning where the law left off, with love, which was the end of the commandment. There is nothing in the way of obedience that we cannot by love accomplish.” P. Strutt (from The Biblical Illustrator Copyright (c) 2002 AGES and BibleSoft, Inc.)