Easter: Don't Get Stuck in Saturday

Romans 8:1-11
April 20, 2025

- **THE BIG IDEA:** In the powerful combination of the Father's plan, Jesus' work on the Cross, and the Spirit's power in the resurrection, God secured our Salvation. Without the Resurrection of Jesus and our own spiritual resurrection we are doomed to a life that is dark, hopeless, and frustrating. If Christ is raised it changes everything about today and all days to come.

Romans 8:1-11 (ESV)

8 There is therefore now ***no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus***. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For ***God has done*** *what the law*, weakened by the flesh, ***could not do***. ***By sending his own Son*** in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, ***he condemned sin in the flesh***, **4 in order that** *the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us*, who walk not 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 ***set their minds on the things of the Spirit***. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is ***life and peace.*** 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 ***You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit,*** if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, ***although the body is dead because of sin***, ***the Spirit is life because of righteousness***.

11 If the ***Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead*** dwells in you, ***he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead*** will also ***give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you***.

Here Are Some Differences a Resurrection Makes

- If you are "in Christ" you are no longer under condemnation for your sin. [v. 1]
- You have been set free from the penalty, power, and (one day) from the very presence of sin and death. [v. 2]
- The fulness of God – Father, Son, and Spirit – has done for you what no amount of human effort could attain – your Salvation. [vv. 3-4]
- In Christ, you are given a new mindset that flows from the Spirit of God who lives in you and focused on the "life and peace" Jesus gives. [vv. 5-6]
- The Law of God has a new place in your life – it is something you now seek to obey, not to be accepted by God, but because you're accepted and free in Christ to obey. [vv.6-7]
- Our present reality is that we live in physical bodies that are already "dead" because of Sin, but God's promise is that those in Christ will not only live eternally, He will resurrect us and give us new bodies made for eternity and designed for life in the Glory of our God. [v. 11]

I think true joy actually looks a lot like hope and faith married together and not so much like an emotion. It's a steadfast belief that what God has said he will do will come to pass. It's a patient waiting for God to move and make all things right. It's knowing that suffering will always be redemptive and we will see its fruit one day.

-- Kirsten Black