

"Mindset" - Romans 8:5-6

Romans 8:5-6 (Holman)

5 For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. 6 For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.

Intro

Mark: Well, good morning,

Toni: Good morning.

Mark: Let's jump into a scripture that is one that I've been looking forward to for quite a while on the topic of peace, and I knew that we couldn't leave that topic until we had torn into this: Romans 8:6, "For the mind set of the flesh is death, but the mind set of the spirit is life and peace."

Toni: Okay. Chapter 8, up to this point, has really been talking about how Christ came to free people from the law, from the tyranny of law, because no one could live by the law perfectly. And, so, this is old news at this point, but he's discussing - Paul is discussing up to this point that the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus, and what It came to accomplish, and what He came to accomplish, sets us free from sure sin and death in a way that nothing else could. And I'd really like to riff on what Spirit actually is, and what it represents, but, at this point, we're going to start very quickly in the breakdown in Romans 8:5. And it says, "For those who live", and that is in the direct translation, that is "those who are, those who exist". "According to", and that's straightforward, exactly what it says, according to "the body" - according to what we can tangibly see here on earth - the natural, physical origin of who we are and what goes on around us tangibly,

Mark: And that word is *sárx*...?

Toni: That word is *sárx*, and it translates out in the Holman as "the flesh". It actually came from *saróō*, which means "to sweep, or clean by sweeping", which seems to make no sense whatsoever in context of this translation. I think that this comes out of the sensuous nature of man, human nature. What this root is implying is that the flesh has to be cleaned. It's just - of its own - without God in the picture, without Christ in the picture, it falls short.

Mark: Yeah. I'm really struggling with that. I've never dug into *sárx*, and seeing that *saróō* as "to sweep clean" - that's still quite shocking. One of the things that may be - since it's the animal nature - or it could also be referring to the tangible, not necessarily the inner nature, but the fact that it can be touched and it can be -

Toni: - because it's exterior, because his touchable. Yeah, I agree with that, but I, I really do believe that this is referring to the sensuous nature of human beings.

Mark: Yeah -

Toni: - And so, however you want to look at it, those who live according to the sensuous nature of human beings... "think" - phronéō - they "have an understanding, they dwell on, they have opinions based upon". And that comes from the root of the root phrḗn, which is parts of the heart and the mind, the faculties that you can perceive and judge. So again, tangibility.

Toni: They tend to think about things that are touchable, that are of the flesh, that are sensual, or sensuous, things on the outside. "But", it says, - dé - "moreover", "those who live", and the "who live" is not actually there in the original scripture. It's just those apart from, or down from, or according to - katá - according to "the Spirit", which is that third person or entity, the Holy Spirit of God, that Gift - about the things, or in relation to - the things of the Spirit. So, all this is saying is, according to original scripture, "If you live, if you exist, based on sensuous things, then those are the things you think about. And if you live based on spiritual things, then spiritual things are the things you think about."

Toni: So, we've really maybe overwrought this a little bit, but that is the, the thrust of it. And that leads us into the verse we're really focusing on, which says "For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace." So, going to the original on that. "for" is exactly what it says. For the "mind-set" Now this this is an interesting word - phrónēma - and that means "what one has your thoughts and purposes centered on" It comes from the root of the root phronéō, which means "to have understanding, and to be wise, to feel and think, to have the opinion, to direct one's mind toward, or to seek or strive for, even to take advantage or seek one's own interests....

Toni: Based in "the flesh." And, again, this is sárx. This is "the body and sensuous nature of man. To direct our thoughts and mind and heart, to take advantage of in every regard, those sensuous things is a life of "separating the soul from the body", of thánatos, which comes from the root of the root, which means "to be dead". And it also means to be spiritually dead. It's not just our body, it's also our spirit. Everything is dead. To die.

Toni: So, when we direct our main thrust, purpose, thought, heart and mind toward fleshly things, sensuous and sensual things, things of the human body and tangibility, then we are directing our thoughts and purpose toward things that die. "But" it says, "moreover" is actually the word, dé, "the mind-set", and, again - this is where we have our thoughts and purposes directed - phrónēma- of the Spirit, which is that Holy Spirit, that Gift from God, the things that are animated, the life and breath that God gives us.

Mark: And that is a beautiful word pneûma.

Toni: It is the beautiful word pneuma which means both "wind", it means "breath", and it means "spirit". It comes from pnéō, which means "to breathe". And I love that, because God breathes life into us, and that is the spirit from which we exist, and upon which we exist. And then He gave us another Spirit that represents Christ in us. So, it is both our life breath and it is the Holy Spirit. So when we, when we direct our mind, our purpose,

our heart, and our thoughts toward that breath, that is our life-breath and the Holy Spirit, then what we're inviting into our existence is zō'é [dzo-ay'], which means "life, life itself". It means vitality. Animation. It means záō, which is "to be among the living, to have true life". And this is beautiful - listen to this. It means "to be worthy of our name, to be worthy of the name of God, to be a part of the endless Kingdom of God, to bypass or live beyond, in addition to, the manner of living of mortals, but to have that living power, that vital power of living water, full vigor, strength and efficiency, efficaciousness, power" - all those things - záō.

Toni: It means to have those things as a power within us.

Mark: I love the living water.

Toni: Yeah, I do, too. It's, it's putting the living water in us, and it is also directing our thoughts, our purpose, our heart, and our mind to eirénē - and we have really exhausted this word if you listened to our podcast, you're going to hear this over and over, because this has been the focus of our study. In the Old Testament the word is shâlôm, shâlôm - which means a peace and tranquility and security and happiness beyond human understanding. It means total concord in harmony with every person here, and God Himself. It's the most perfect state of being.

Toni: The word in the New Testament, which means exactly the same thing, is eirénē. It is the Messiah's peace. When we cultivate a mindset, a purpose, and direct our thoughts toward Spirit, toward those things that surpass everything tangible, which embody truth and the power of God Himself, and the essence of our life...

Toni: We are promoting the highest power, the highest strength, the highest perfect state of existence, of harmony and happiness on this earth, and beyond this earth in a life eternal with God. If you want to say, we've read so many works of fiction throughout the ages about the "fountain of youth". We've read so many things about ultimate power. We know so many tales of true history - and fiction - about people seeking perfect wealth and total power. This is *the secret of life*. This is the secret, right here, wrapped up in this one verse - and, to me - that's amazing. That's absolutely mind-blowing. And, *he* says it in just these few words, even though I have beaten the dead horse, and said it in a thousand words, he's saying it perfectly here, "The mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace."

Mark: And, this is not a one-off. This is the teaching of Christ. It comes up over and over again. It is within our reach, and within our domain, and I've gone after this mindset for three decades now. There's a lot of rules and regulations, maybe, that we face, but there are a few of them that *matter* - and this is one of them. In my walk.