

MAY 1 - THE MYSTER OF GOD REVEALED TO PAUL - DISCIPLES

^{RSV} **Romans 8:1-14** *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the just 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 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; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh, you are 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 your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive 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 give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you. ¹² So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

Zechariah 4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Psalm 127:1 A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

1. These fourteen verses begin in freedom from condemnation – and – end in filial adoption by the Creator.
 - a. "In Christ Jesus" is a condition that is "of the Spirit." (John 17:22-23)
 - b. Verse 9 makes it clear that this is a living paradigm where "God is in the individual."
 - c. God is in this new person by 'his Spirit.'
 - i. But requires a "Spirit directed" walk. (I John 1:7)
 - ii. These Spirit-people are to be "led" – and these are God's sons. (John 4:22-25).
2. "The Spirit" is said to be the Spirit of Christ (verse 9) and Spirit of God (verse 14).
 - a. Jesus is the reason for the "Trinity" and "Godhead."
 - i. These are human terms to try to explain a God mystery. (I Cor 2:6-14).
 - ii. No holy person saw/understood this before Christ. (I Cor. 2:14).
 - iii. *The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.* (1Pe 1:10-12).
 - b. We owe no "debt" to the flesh. Our debt is to God in Christ by the Spirit – to obey.

In Christ we are dealing with the beginning of all things. He is God's chosen and determined goal for creating the universe and all that is. He is the source of all. That which is the beginning is what is now the *good-news* (John 1:1-4). Jesus Christ in scripture is the Word of God – he is to be heard, trusted and obeyed.