

chairman's welcome

2 Timothy 3:14-17 **RICHARD COEKIN**

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith

in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

• Welcome!

• Why is the Bible central to The London Men's Convention?

i) It is about salvation! (15)

› nothing could be more important

ii) It is from God! (16)

› nothing could be more reliable

iii) It is for good works! (17)

› nothing could be more useful

the spirit of life

Romans 8:1-39 PETE WOODCOCK

Life Through the Spirit

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation— but it is not to the sinful nature,

to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Future Glory

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. ²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

More Than Conquerors

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all

things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. SPIRIT FREEDOM (No Condemnation) v1-4
2. SPIRIT LIFE (No Debtor) v5-13
3. SPIRIT FAMILY (No Slavery) v14-17
4. SPIRIT LONGING (No Bondage) v18-27
5. SPIRIT SECURITY (No Separation) v28-39

the spirit of truth

John 16:5-16 **DICK LUCAS**

The Work of the Holy Spirit

⁵Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. ⁷But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now

stands condemned.

¹²I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

¹⁶In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.

THE COMING OF THE SPIRIT (8a;13a)

1. THE SPIRIT AND 'THE WORLD' (8-11)

The 'Counsellor' (?) will convict the world with respect of ...

a. Sin! (John 3:18b)

b. Righteousness!

c. Judgment! (see John 12:31)

NOTE 1. This is the only place in Scripture where the Spirit is said to do a work **in the world**.

NOTE 2. Acts 2:36-41 describes the first, and classic, example of this indispensable activity of the Spirit.

'What makes the world culpable is its conflict with Jesus' (Ridderbos)

2. THE SPIRIT AND THE APOSTLES (12-15)

The Spirit of Truth will guide the disciples/apostles..

a. In **Remembering** all Jesus thus far has taught them (John 14:26)

b. In **Declaring** all Jesus still needs to teach them (12f)

NOTE 1. These words were spoken by Jesus specifically to his disciples at a unique moment in their history and his. Read verses 5,6,7,12,16 to recognize this.

NOTE 2. The teaching ministry of the Spirit of Truth (= the Spirit of Christ) is to make clear the Truth as it is **in Jesus**.

There is **no separable gospel of the Spirit for saints** in addition to the gospel of Christ for sinners!

'Because ... of the finality of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, the Church has always been rightly suspicious of claims of still further definitive revelation that is binding on the consciences of all Christians ...' (Carson)

> **QUESTION:** So what does all this say for us and our churches **today**?

the spirit of holiness

Galatians 5:13-26 RICHARD COEKIN

¹³You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbour as yourself. ¹⁵If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Life by the Spirit

¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

¹⁹The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

• neither Licence nor Law but the Spirit

• “Freedom” (5:1)

• “they want you to be circumcised” (5:12-13)

• Paul’s authority (*chs 1-2*); Justification by faith (*chs 3-4*); Life in the Spirit (*chs 5-6*)

1 Don’t indulge your sinful nature but live by the Spirit! (5:13-18)

• Love

• Conflict

2 Don’t live in your selfish vices but in the fruit of the Spirit! (5:19-23)

• Selfish acts

• Christ-like fruit

› *We’ve crucified our sinful nature. . . let’s keep in step with the Spirit! (5:24-26)*