

Parish of Ferndown
Study sheet for week commencing 30th November 2008
“Life In The Spirit” - Romans Chapter 8 verses 1 -17

Introduction

St Paul is saying in these verses that the Christian life, the life of a believer, is seen as being essentially life in the Spirit. It is a life which is animated, sustained, directed and enriched by the Holy Spirit. This is seen in our decisions, our direction and our destiny.

Our Decision For Life verses 1 - 4

- 1) Why should we decide to follow Jesus Christ?
- 2) What are we told here that He has done for us and what does that mean to us? How do we tell this Good News to people with little or no knowledge of Jesus?
- 3) How would you answer the person who says on looking at verse 3, "God seems to be a hard God if He sends His own Son into the world to die for something He did not do?"

Our Direction For Life verses 5 - 11

- 1) Someone said "What we think governs how we think, how we think governs how we behave, how we behave governs our relationship to God". In the light of what St. Paul is saying in these verses how do you think we should change and why?
- 2) Ezekiel writes in Chapter 37 verses 1 - 14 about the Spirit coming to resurrect and renew our lives. What should be the marks of this resurrected life?
- 3) Look at verse 9, does this mean that if we sin we do not belong to Christ?

Our Destiny In Life verses 12 -17

- 1) We are told in these verses that we have an "obligation" to the Holy Spirit to live a life pleasing to God. Does this mean that we have to struggle daily to live a life honouring to God?
- 2) "You have received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba" Father". What difference does this make to our relationship, our prayers and our future with God?
- 3) It was said of Billy Bray, a great Cornish evangelist who lived in the late 1700s, that Religion to Billy was not a duty to be done, not a privilege to be enjoyed in leisure hours, not a comfortable provision for rainy days, it was life. Never left behind, never put off with Sunday clothes, never hidden before great or low, good or bad, but in him, flowing through him, speaking every word, felt in every action, seen in every look. Dead indeed to sins, he was now living unto God through Christ. "They said I was a mad-man, but they meant I was a glad-man, and glory be to God, I am the son of the King". What a challenge to us all.

Perhaps we might pray for one another, that God will, by His Spirit, give us the new life and release the Holy Spirit in that life.

Please turn over...