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Christ In You

Romans 8.9-11

Series: The Pure Gospel

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The Village Church

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I. Introduction

A. Drowning has been in the news recently

1. Last week a yacht sank in bad weather off the coast of Sicily
 - a. There were 22 people on board the yacht when it was seemingly engulfed by a violent downdraft during a storm
 - b. Seven of those sank with the vessel, which came to rest in 160 feet of water
2. The story got attention because of who was on board
 - a. In addition to the 10 crew members, there 12 passengers who were connected with Mike Lynch, a British tech entrepreneur
 - b. Lynch died along with his 18 year old daughter
 - c. As did his lawyer and his wife
 - d. And an international financier and his wife
3. They were celebrating the acquittal of Lynch from a serious financial fraud indictment
 - a. He built Britain's largest software company, then sold it to HP for \$11 billion
 - b. HP eventually alleged a major accounting scandal and had Lynch tied up in court for nearly a decade
4. In an eerie co-incidence, hours before the yacht sank, Lynch's co-defendant in the fraud case was killed after being struck by a car while jogging
 - a. But I won't begin to theologize on that one!

B. But back to drowning

1. There is a frequently used metaphor in Christian circles related to drowning
 - a. It goes something like this
2. The sinner is in the deep water; he can't swim; he's struggling to stay afloat
 - a. But along comes a rescue boat
 - b. A man on the boat throws a life preserver to the drowning man, and calls for him to grab the preserver so he can be pulled to safety
 - c. And it's up to the drowning man to recognize his predicament, to see that the life preserver is essential to his survival, and grab onto it and be saved

3. The gospel is the life preserver
 - a. The knowledge that Jesus has provided everything needed for one's salvation
 - b. And it requires only that the drowning sinner grabs the gospel life preserver and be saved
- C. In the yacht episode that's kind of what happened with the 15 who were saved
 1. Another yacht was nearby
 2. A lifeboat was released
 3. And the 15 struggled to safety and were saved
- D. But that's not what happens in the gospel encounter
 1. If you were to see the Sicily episode in light of the gospel, it wouldn't have been the 15 souls in the water who were saved
 2. If the Sicily drowning episode were an illustration of the gospel, it would have been that the divers exploring the wreckage of the sunken yacht
 - a. Were to have taken the dead bodies of the passengers out of the vessel 160 feet below the surface of the sea
 - b. Days after they had perished
 - c. And would have breathed new life into those bodies as they ascended to the surface
 - d. Bringing them to life, miraculously
 3. Not from danger to life
 - a. From death to life
- E. **Ephesians 2:1-7** (ESV) —
 1. 1 And **you were dead** in the trespasses and sins
 2. 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—
 3. 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
 4. 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,
 5. 5 **even when we were dead** in our trespasses,
 6. 6 **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved—
 7. 7 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 8. 8 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- F. Christian salvation is not salvation from danger
 1. It is salvation from death to life
- G. How does that happen?
 1. It happens because the Spirit of God makes us alive
 - a. Alive to God
 - b. Alive to Christ
 - c. Spiritually alive

- 2. Even when we were dead
- H. And when God does that, His Spirit comes to dwell in us
 - 1. That is the message of Romans
 - a. And especially Chapter 8 of Romans
- I. Listen to our text this morning
 - 1. And hear how the Spirit of God gives true spiritual life to our moribund souls
- J. **Romans 8:9–11** (ESV) —
 - 1. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.
 - 2. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
 - 3. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
 - 4. 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.

II. **Two Kinds of People**

- A. You'll recall that in our previous studies of Romans 8 we learned that there are two kinds of people in the world
 - 1. Those who are believers in Jesus Christ are said to be those who **"live according to the Spirit"**
 - a. And those who are not yet believers are those who **"live according to the flesh"**
 - 2. This echoes what Paul said in the Ephesians passage that we looked at a few minutes ago
 - 3. **Ephesians 2:1–3** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, ... among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind...
- B. **Romans 8:5** (ESV) —
 - 1. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,
 - 2. but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
- C. Paul then introduced the contrast between life and death with respect to these two kinds of people
- D. **Romans 8:6** (ESV) —
 - 1. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death,
 - 2. but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
- E. And Paul drove home the final lynch-pin of his argument when he established why the unbeliever lives according to the flesh
 - 1. It's the spiritual inability of the flesh, the sinful nature of the human being apart from the grace of God
- F. **Romans 8:7–8** (ESV) —

1. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God,
 2. for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.
 3. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- G. Why is the mind set on the flesh unable to submit to God's law?
1. Well, it's dead!
 2. It's not floundering around in the water in danger
 3. No! It's at the bottom of 160 feet of water, lifeless, and entombed in a water filled compartment
 - a. With no breath, no pulse
 - b. Spiritually speaking
- H. And what can a dead man do?
1. Absolutely nothing!
- I. Back in the days when I was teaching behavioral psychology to education students, we had a definition of behavior
1. Behavior is anything a dead man can't do
 2. It's a great definition because a dead man can't do anything
- J. Spiritually speaking, apart from the grace of God, we're dead
1. We're lifeless with respect to spiritual things
 2. Unresponsive to God and to His gracious and loving entreaties
- K. But what happens when we come to Christ?
1. God makes us alive
 - a. We are born again as Jesus taught Nicodemus in John 3
 - b. Born of the Spirit
- L. And you know what happens when God does that?
1. He comes into your life and dwells in you by His Spirit

III. **The Only Certain Assurance**

- A. His dwelling in us gives the believer the only certain assurance of our salvation
- B. Remember, Romans 8 is a wonderful chapter because it is all about assuring us of our salvation in Jesus Christ
1. Which is kind of remarkable because of what the previous passage has been teaching
- C. **Romans 8:7-8** (ESV) —
1. 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.
 2. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
- D. But now comes the assurance
- E. **Romans 8:9** (ESV) —
1. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you....
- F. "However" is one of those contrast conjunctions
1. Some translations have it as "But"
 - a. One of the great "Buts" of the Bible!
 2. You are not in the flesh but are in the Spirit if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you!

- G. And Paul goes on to show how the indwelling of the Spirit of God in the life of the believer is the ultimate criterion for whether we are true believers
 - 1. And he does it by way of negation
- H. **Romans 8:9** (ESV) —
 - 1. 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.
 - 2. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- I. Those who belong to Christ have the Spirit of God dwelling in them
 - 1. Those who do not belong to Christ do not have the Spirit of God dwelling in them
- J. That, then, is the very definition of a Christian
 - 1. Those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them are Christians
 - a. Those who do not have the Spirit of God dwelling in them are not Christians
- K. And by the way – the Spirit of God has an alias
 - 1. An “a.k.a.” – also known as
 - 2. Another name
 - 3. The Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit is also known as “the Spirit of Christ”
- L. So this passage teaches us that when God makes you alive
 - 1. When He makes you born again by His Spirit
 - 2. When His Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you
 - 3. Christ comes to dwell in you
 - 4. He is called the Spirit of Christ
- M. So when the Spirit of God comes into your life, the very life of Jesus Christ is dwelling in you!
 - 1. **Colossians 1:27** (ESV) —
 - a. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery,
 - b. which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- N. So you are in the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells in you
 - 1. And if the Spirit of God, that is, the Spirit of Christ, does not dwell in you, you are in the flesh
 - a. And you don’t belong to Christ

IV. **The Present Life of the Spirit**

- A. Now, how do we know if the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, dwells in you?
- B. **Romans 8:10** (ESV) —
 - 1. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
- C. If you are “in the Spirit,” is you are a believer – you still have a body
 - 1. And that body is subject to death
 - a. Indeed, it is dying
 - b. And you all are painfully aware (pun intended) of that dying
 - c. We all are wasting away, aren’t we?
- D. But if we are in the Spirit, the Spirit is life because of righteousness

1. Righteousness – the righteousness of Christ
 - a. Because Christ lives in you – by the Spirit
- E. So what does that mean?
 1. It means that we are alive to the things of God
 - a. For the first time!
 2. Alive to what?
- F. Obviously, **alive to righteousness**
 1. Before we hated the Law of God
 - a. We were hostile to God
 - b. The Law of God was abhorrent to us
 - c. It called us to account
 - d. It condemned us
 2. But now, because the Spirit of God dwells in us, the Law of God is something we cherish, something we long to embrace and fulfill
 - a. Because Christ Himself cherishes the Law and fulfilled it
 3. We become like David
 - a. **Psalm 119:97** (ESV) — 97 Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.
 - b. **Psalm 119:165** (ESV) — 165 Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.
 4. Or as Paul says later in Romans
 - a. **Romans 13:8** (ESV) — 8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.
 - b. **Romans 13:10** (ESV) — 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
 5. The Law becomes our friend
 - a. Formerly, it was our enemy
 6. The Spirit is life because of righteous
- G. We are also **alive to God**
 1. We're alive to God like we never were before
 2. Even if we "believed in God" we were pretty much oblivious to God
 - a. Ignoring God in practically everything
 - b. Ignorant of His involvement in this world
 - c. Indeed, of His involvement even in our lives
 3. We could even go to church on Sunday morning
 - a. Maybe that's what we thought "good people" do on Sundays
 - b. But God never enters our mind from Sunday afternoon through Saturday night
 - c. Never even give Him a thought
 4. But when we come to Christ, we start to see God in everything
 - a. We see Him in the beauty around us
 - b. We see Him in the people around us – who all bear the image of God
 - c. We can't go a half-hour without thinking of God
 - d. Without asking ourselves, "What does God think about this?"

- e. Or “How would God desire I respond to these circumstances?”
- f. Or “How can I be Christ to my neighbor?”
- 5. Those are the kinds of thoughts of someone who is alive to God
- 6. We see every encounter with someone – with a friend, or family, or neighbor, or even an enemy
 - a. As a divine encounter
 - b. An appointment made by the Cosmic Secretary
 - c. An appointment made for us as His ambassadors
- 7. The fool, the Bible tells us, will not have God in his thinking
 - a. Those who are in the Spirit, however, have God constantly in our thinking
 - b. We can’t imagine a day, an hour, without thinking about God
- 8. We’re alive to God by His Spirit who dwells in us
- H. We also become **alive to the Word of God** when we are in the Spirit
 - 1. The Bible, before we became a Christian, was a book of nonsense to us
 - a. Full of undecipherable conjectures
 - 2. We had no interest in the Bible
 - a. Maybe an academic interest – the Bible as a piece of ancient literature, perhaps
 - b. But we really had no intention of actually taking it seriously
 - c. Certainly never seeing it as holding us morally accountable
 - 3. But when we come to Christ, when we are in the Spirit, the Bible comes alive
 - a. We long to read it – every day
 - b. And long to understand it – so that we go to Bible studies
 - c. And we even listen to the Pastor’s sermons – sometimes more than once
 - d. Sometimes even asking the Pastor for his notes!
 - 4. And when we read the Bible, we hear God speaking
 - a. Speaking to us
 - b. We discover that it’s His word to His children– to us!
 - c. His love to His beloved
 - 5. Some of you might be concerned that you never hear the voice of God speaking to you
 - a. Well, let me give you a suggestion
 - b. Read the Bible out loud
 - c. And you’ll hear God speak to you!
 - 6. We develop a longing for, a thirst for, the Word of God
 - a. Because we know that it is through the Word of God that we discover who God is
 - b. And we’re alive to God
 - c. All because of His Spirit who dwells in us
- I. And we also become **alive to God’s people**
 - 1. That’s right – to other Christians
 - 2. Before, we could take them or leave them

- a. Those who were interesting or entertaining – they’re ok
 - b. I’d spend time with them
- 3. But now, we develop a genuine affection for these people
 - a. Yes, even these “peculiar people” – as Peter says in the KJV of his epistle
 - b. And we can’t wait to see our brothers and sisters
- 4. And we become alive to other Christians, not just so we can get something from them
 - a. But so we can be the source of encouragement to them
 - b. As they also seek a closer walk with God by the Spirit
- 5. We find that being together in worship and fellowship is far better than the TV versions of ourselves
 - a. Now, we’re thankful for the TV version for when we’re unable to be with God’s people
 - b. But whenever we can, we want to be together
- 6. We even want to be together for those who might differ with us on personal preferences
 - a. Like musical styles
 - b. Or favorite sports teams
 - c. Or even political persuasions
- 7. If they’re God’s people, we can put aside the differences that are temporal
 - a. Because we share an eternity together
- 8. We resonate with the mission of TVC – **We’re building a community of forgiveness, purpose and hope in Jesus Christ**
 - a. Building a community
 - b. Because we can’t do it alone
 - c. The church is a community, a fellowship, a koinonia, of people who care for each other
- 9. Because we become alive to the people of God
- J. “If Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness”
 - 1. So we are alive
 - a. To righteousness
 - b. To God
 - c. To the Word of God
 - d. To the people of God

V. **The Future Glory of the Spirit**

- A. But there’s more!
 - 1. That’s the present
 - a. That’s life that comes to us from the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us!
 - 2. But what about the future?
 - a. It’s even more glorious!
- B. **Romans 8:11** (ESV) —

1. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,
2. he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies
3. through his Spirit who dwells in you.
- C. We have an eternal hope through believing in Jesus
 1. That if we “live according to the Spirit” – if we are indeed indwelt by the Spirit of God, who is the Spirit of Christ
 - a. We have the hope of the resurrection
- D. Our bodies may be subject to physical death now
 1. But not forever!
- E. **1 Corinthians 15:51–57** (ESV) —
 1. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery.
 2. We shall not all sleep,
 - a. but we shall all be changed,
 3. 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
 4. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable,
 - a. and we shall be changed.
 5. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable,
 - a. and this mortal body must put on immortality.
 6. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable,
 - a. and the mortal puts on immortality,
 7. then shall come to pass the saying that is written:
 - a. “Death is swallowed up in victory.”
 8. 55 “O death, where is your victory?
 - a. O death, where is your sting?”
 9. 56 The sting of death is sin,
 - a. and the power of sin is the law.
 10. 57 But thanks be to God,
 - a. who gives us the victory
 - b. through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- F. As Paul said in Colossians 1.27 – **Christ in you, the hope of glory!**
- G. “He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”

VI. Is Jesus Christ in you?

- A. Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?
- B. Are you alive spiritually?
 1. Alive to righteousness?
 2. Alive to God?
 3. Alive to God’s Word?
 4. Alive to God’s people?
- C. Do you long for the moment when we shall be changed
 1. In our mortal bodies?
 2. No more crying
 3. No more tears

4. No more pain
- D. He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you
- E. We at TVC are building a community of forgiveness, purpose and **hope in Jesus Christ**
 1. That community of hope is who we are by His Spirit who dwells in us
- F. **Romans 8:23–25** (ESV) —
 1. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
 2. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope.
 3. For who hopes for what he sees?
 4. 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- G. “In this hope we were saved”
- H. Are you saved?
 1. Do you have the Spirit of Christ?
 2. Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?
- I. Maybe you can’t relate to this
 1. But can you hear the voice of Jesus calling you?
 - a. Do you sense the prompting of the Spirit of God beckoning you to come to Jesus?
 2. Maybe the Spirit of God is moving in you right now
 3. If He is – call on Him while He may be found!
- J. Maybe even for the first time in your life you know the Spirit of God is doing something in you
 1. You may have been a church-going person all your life – but now you know God is making you alive to Him!
 2. If so – call on Him
 3. **Romans 10:13** (ESV) — 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”