

Beware of the ME Monster - Romans 8:1-17
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Several years ago, a comedian named Brian Regan did a routine about people he has met at social events that dominate the conversation with stories about themselves. He is extremely funny as he describes himself trying to "get a word in edgewise" to no avail and how his own stories are "one-upped" by the person he names a "Me Monster"! Regan gives us a hilarious warning to... "Beware of the ME MONSTER"!

In reality, we all have a (not-so-funny) ME MONSTER living within us. It is more often referred to as our "sinful nature". When we as sinful people realize we cannot control our ME MONSTER in our own strength and power, and we surrender to the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are set free from the law of sin and death!

In his letter to the church at Rome, the Apostle Paul is addressing some divisive issues that seem to have come up between the church members of Jewish descent and the Gentile members. We don't know exactly what all the issues were, but it seems, at a minimum, there was some dispute about living under the Law of Moses, as the Jews were accustomed to living, and the Gentiles who felt no compulsion to follow the Mosaic Law. Paul's letter addresses this issue of "The Law". And near the end of Chapter 7, Paul does a masterful job of describing his own ME MONSTER, setting the stage some glorious declarations in Chapter 8!

Chapter 8 is perhaps one of the most theologically rich texts in the entire New Testament. Some theologians have called it the "Mount Everest" of gospel explanations. It begins with the declaration that there is no condemnation for those who are "in" Christ Jesus, and it concludes declaring that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord! In between, Paul lays out the Gospel, the good news, of the freedoms we can enjoy as a believer in Jesus. Today, we will look only at the first 17 verses of Chapter 8 and see that Paul describes the roles of each member of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) plays a part in being set free from the law of sin and death.

Paul sets out three clear truths in these first 17 verses.

1. Believers are **FREE FROM CONDEMNATION** because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the Cross (verses 1-4). The Son of God, Jesus Christ, through his death on the cross, paid the price for everyone so that if they believe in Him, they can stand justified before God the Father one day. Justice has been served for whatever sins that person has committed and they are no longer condemned for the sins inspired by their ME MONSTER.
2. Believers **FREE FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN** because of the work of the Holy Spirit. When a new believer begins to allow the Holy Spirit more and more space and authority in their lives, they are being sanctified. Sanctification is a process that can not be completed in this lifetime. We will all stumble at times and allow that old ME MONSTER to have its way. But as we learn more and more to allow the Holy Spirit to have control, we can learn to set our minds on the things of the Spirit and we grow in faith.
3. Believers are **FREE TO INHERIT** the kingdom because God the Father adopts believers as His own! And this adoption comes with all the rights of inheritance that

belong to any natural born child inheriting their father's estate. Paul describes our adoption as having a close, loving relationship with our adopted father... God himself!

This quick look at (the first half of) Romans Chapter 8 barely scratches the surface of this incredible chapter! Every verse I packed with truth that can help you on your journey in understanding God's truth and His plan for your life. Consider taking some time to study this incredible chapter!

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Psalm 2	Psalm 3	Psalm 4	Psalm 5	Psalm 6	Psalm 7	Psalm 8

Reading from this past week: Romans 8:1-17

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Psalm 23:1-6

Family Worship

Song - *Lovingkindness*

<https://youtu.be/xV-fNmt6ZAO>

Gospel Project

Story: Defending the faith.

Story Point: Jude urged believers to stand up for what is true.

Answer: One day, all Christians will see Jesus in His glory and live with Him forever.

Scripture: Jude

Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Verse: Jude 3

New City Catechism

Question #31: What do we believe by true faith?

Answer: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our

Scripture

Romans 8:1-17

- Does a ME MONSTER live in you? Do you find yourself sometimes doing what you truly do NOT want to do?
- What does Paul mean when he uses the term "in Christ?"
- What roles do each member of the Trinity play in our life as believers?

Prayer

*Pray that the glorious truths of the Gospel from Romans 8 would sink in deeply.

*Pray for the St. Louis Metro Baptist Association, their church planting strategy called the Midwest Collective, and Mission Strategist Darren Casper.