Hello everyone, it is March the 20th of 2025, and this is part 8 of the Image of Christ series. This current series was kicked off by a most remarkable passage in Romans 8. Back in the day, after leaving the corporate entity, it was Romans 8 that triggered an intensive year and a half long study into the word spirit, Greek word pneuma.

0:00:26

I realized after reading the passage in Romans 8, that even after 33 years in the faith, I was still clueless about such an important thing. Invariably one is forced to ask themselves, what's wrong with that picture? Coincidentally, Romans 8 lays out the destiny and purpose for mankind, and tells us the what and the how that will be brought about.

0:01:00

And the coolest part was about the various nuances and meanings of the word spirit as it is used in Romans 8. Not the overall picture, but the word spirit is used many times in Romans 8, and is referring to different things. And since Romans 8 is all about the what and the how of what God is up to, I can't imagine why Satan would seek to hide that.

0:01:29

Let's pick up Romans 8 and verse 22 and walk through it to see what we might glean. So, Romans 8, verse 22.

²²For we know

The ekklesia know.

that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Well, birth pangs are something that precedes a new birth of life, is it not?

²³Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

0:02:13

We change from physical to spirit.

²⁴For we were saved in this hope.

That's the purpose of the calling of God and the purpose for mankind generally.

but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

So, we look to the future.

²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

0:02:44

It is certain and sure because it is part of God's word

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us

You mean Christ is referred to as the Spirit? Really?

makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷Now He who searches the hearts

0:03:22

That's the Father.

knows what the mind of the Spirit is,

Well, lookie there. That's twice now.

because He (The Spirit) makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

0:03:57

All of that is revealed to us in Romans 8.

²⁹For whom He foreknew.

God the Father, the maker of our spirits, foreknew us.

He also predestined (the program) to be conformed to the image of His Son,

God the Father, has a Son.

that He (His Son) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

0:04:32

So, there's going to be lot's more Sons of God, only this from a process of physical, into spirit.

³⁰Moreover whom He predestined,

The ones He predestined to take on that future identity.

these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. ³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son,

0:05:11

Yes, God has a Son, as we've seen.

but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

God's Son had all things, and the future Sons of God will also participate and be given all things.

³³Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

0:05:50

So, we have a repeat of verse 27. Now that we see that Christ is mentioned as the Spirit here, let's go to John 14 and read verses 10 - 18 and see if some of this starts to fit. John 14, and verses 10 - 18.

¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

0:06:36

And we see that confirmed in Acts 2:22.

¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

Nobody could do what Christ did; it was the Father performing miracles, and doing things through Christ, that was the proof of who He actually was.

¹²"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also;

0:07:09 Oh, really?

and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. ¹⁵"If you love Me, keep My

commandments. ¹⁶And <u>I</u> will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—

0:07:41

Well, who's He? Oh, it's

¹⁷the Spirit of truth

Did we not just see that in Romans 8? Did Christ here just not refer to Himself as the Spirit of truth?

whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you

0:08:15

God's Son was made flesh and dwelt with them; and future.

and will be in you. 18I will not leave you orphans;

This Spirit of truth.

I will come to you.

0:08:31

Christ here, refers to Himself as the Spirit of truth. Since Yehovah is truth, would it violate anything to think of Christ as a Spirit of Truth, as a Spirit of God? We actually need to think on those things. If the ekklesia, are being made over in the image of Christ, would it follow then that they too, would become Spirits of Truth, Spirits of God, born Sons of God.

0:09:08

Is that even a possibility, does that even make any sense? Well, let's go to I Corinthians 15; I Corinthians 15, and we'll read verses 45 – 49 and which is it. Here we go, I Corinthians 15, verse 45.

⁴⁵And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

0:09:47

So, when Christ was resurrected, He was a life-giving Spirit; He returned to the glory He once had before.

⁴⁶However, the spiritual is not first.

In regarding humans.

but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

That being made over in the image of Christ.

0:10:44

How about verse 53?

⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

We see that man, patterned after the image of Christ, will also become immortal and incorruptible as Christ indeed is. It would seem logical that if the ekklesia are being made over in the image of Christ, they might want to know a bit more about Christ, and what He's all about. That would just seem to make sense.

0:11:28

That ties in quite nicely to what we learn of Christ in John 17, verse 5. So, let's have a read of that. John 17, verse 5. This is what Christ said about Himself. We're being patterned, or the ekklesia are being patterned after Christ.

⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

0:12:04

So, Christ recognized, and remembered and knew that He had a glory with the Father before the world was. He simply tells us that He had a glory with the Father before the world began, and that He wanted to be returned to that state, once His physical existence, tasked to Him by His Father, was completed upon His death as a human being.

0:12:35

There is going to be a glory given to the ekklesia as well. So, if we go to I Corinthians 15 again and let's pick it up in verse 36 and we'll read through verse 45. I Corinthians 15, verses 35 – 45.

³⁵But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

13:05

That's a good question. Are they going to be raised in glory, is all the glory going to be the same, or are there different glories? Let's go on.

³⁶Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸But (the) God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

0:13:41

So, while Christ does the resurrecting, it is the Father who looks after the body that that individual is going to have in the resurrection to spirit.

³⁹All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and of birds. ⁴⁰There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

0:14:09

You mean that there are different degrees of glory?

⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.

God is not a one trick pony. There is a series of glories, or a spectrum of glories that permeates the entire creation, they're all special and they are all unique.

⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

0:15:11

And again, we'll repeat this because it's so important.

⁴⁵And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam

In whom the ekklesia are patterned after.

became a life-giving spirit.

0:15:29

We have to at least ask the question; will the ekklesia be raised as life-giving spirits? Is this what the creation itself, is waiting for to deliver it from the bondage of decay we read about, or we read about in Romans 8? Romans 8:20 – 22. Let's just read that, and think that, what do you actually think?

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption

0:16:22

Remember, the ekklesia raised, will be incorruptible.

into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Well, birthing what? We maybe need to think about that.

0:16:46

As we know, the ekklesia are charged by God, and are articulated by Christ, to live by every word of God. For the purposes of this study, we are going to believe Christ when He actually said that. Luke 4, verses 3 and 4. We'll just quickly look at that, because that's quite important to where we are going here. Let's read verse 3.

³And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴But Jesus answered him, saying "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.""

0:17:28

Let's go to Matthew 4, just to see if we can get any additional color on that, because it's also stated there. Verse 3.

³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God,

Satan knew exactly who He was.

command that these stones become bread." ⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God

0:18:07

And Christ repeatedly said, His brothers and sisters are those who do the will of God. Do they live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God? Is that what a son of God is actually supposed to do? Is there a place in scripture where we see an affirmation of this? Indeed, there is. But before we get there, it's important to see what we can learn in I Timothy 6; I Timothy 6, and verses 13 – 16.

0:18:45

I'm going to read that initially in the New King James, and then we'll read it in the New Living Translation where it clears up some of the ambiguity that we might see there. I Timothy 6, verses 13 - 16. It says:

¹³I urge you

0:19:04

Let's actually go to verse 11.

¹¹But you, O man of God, (referring to Timothy) flee these things and pursue righteousness,

You know, seek His righteousness and all these things will be added to you.

pursue righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. 12Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called

Which is in perfect harmony with Romans 8.

and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³I urge you in the sight of (the) God who gives life to all things,

0:19:46

So, Paul understood, that the Father was the fountain of all life, all life came from Him. We'll get back to that here in a bit.

and before Jesus Christ, who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, ¹⁵which He (The Father) will manifest in His own time,

0:20:12

Scheduling the program is in the Father's control.

He (Speaking of the Father) who is the blessed and only Potentate,

And you might want to look up that word in the Greek, just so you can get an idea, sovereign, the only sovereign.

the King of kings and Master of lords,

0:20:36

And verse 16 is very important.

¹⁶who alone (the Father alone) has immortality.

He can give it to anyone He wants to. You know, Paul understood it was Yehovah that gives life to all things. The descriptor of verses 15 and 16 are to our Father Yehovah. The Father alone has immortality and He can give that to anyone He chooses.

¹⁶who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

0:21:20

Now in the New Living Translation (I Timothy 6, verse 13 reads:

¹³And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate,

Verse 14

¹⁴that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

0:21:47

And we know He's coming again, not to set up the kingdom, but to resurrect the saints. Verse 15

¹⁵ For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only Almighty God, the King of kings and Lord of all lords.

And verse 16

¹⁶ He alone can never die.

God's Son could, but the Father can never die.

and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen.

0:22:35

Well, that's quite interesting, if we could say such a thing. Does, we know for example that an angel can appear as a man. Well, who gave them the capacity to do that? You know, it says that some people have entertained angels completely unaware. Where did they get that capacity?

0:23:09

Did Christ, once He had been resurrected, have the capacity to appear in different forms? Well, Mark 16:12 says that:

¹²After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.

And we can see what He looks like in Revelation 1, I'm not going to go there, we've done that before.

0:23:31

So, Christ in His resurrected state could appear in another form if He chose to do so; angels can appear in different forms, but somehow this same capacity is beyond Yehovah's pay grade. I think not. What do you think? Would limiting our Father make any sense at all? If the Father wanted to appear as a human being, could He do that? Are we going to place Him in a situation where He always has to be in His glorified state? I think sometimes we just limit our Father far more than we probably should.

0:24:17

So, let's take what Timothy is telling us and let's return to John 5. We are going to walk through that in a fairly deliberate and methodical way. I'll apologize for that before we even get into it.

0:24:39

Let's begin in verse 1, for the whole chapter tells us a story. John 5, verse 1.

¹ After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

If the ekklesia, being made over in the image of Christ; maybe they should keep God's festivals and days as well. Doesn't it make sense that if folks were being made over into the image of another Christ, they wouldn't?

0:25:14

Let's go on, read through verse 16 here.

²Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. ³In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. ⁴For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. ⁵Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" ⁷The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." ⁹And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

0:26:26

And here we have a problem.

And that day was the Sabbath. ¹⁰The Jews therefore said to him who was cured,

"Isn't it wonderful that you've been made all better." Ah, no, no that's not what they said. They said:

"It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed."

So, whatever image or viewpoint they had formed of God in their own minds thought that this was a very bad thing, a very wrong thing to do.

0:27:00

And yet, here comes along Christ, who healed him, and instructed him to do that very thing.

¹¹He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk." ¹²Then they asked him, "Who is the Man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?"

0:27:25

And obviously, He, Christ, He didn't know how God operates, he would never have done such a thing.

¹³But the one who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place. ¹⁴Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you." ¹⁵The man departed and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. ¹⁶For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

0:28:06

So, we can see here that God's own Son came and healed this fellow and lifted him up from an affliction of thirty some years, and they were incensed, as if He had somehow violated their understanding and what God allowed and doesn't allow.

0:28:35

Now notice the situation. They sought to kill Him because He had done these things on the Sabbath day. So, Christ is now going to begin to address them in the sense of showing them who He is, what He had been doing, why He does what He does, how He does what He does, where He came from; all to show them that He was eminently qualified to know whether or not He should have healed this guy on the Sabbath, and told him to grab his mattress and get going. That was the whole issue.

0:29:32

So, notice what it says here.

¹⁷But Jesus answered them, "My Father (God obviously) has been working until now, and I have been working."

You notice His frame of reference here is, "My Father and I have been working." He has already been the Son. He is the Son of God.

¹⁸Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

0:30:21

God doesn't have a Son, oh really!

¹⁹Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, (the fellow who had raised this poor fellow up, is saying.) the Son (of God) can do nothing of Himself,

We are to live by every word of God.

but what He sees the Father do;

0:30:58

Can we see some kind of parallel here, that we are going to be raised, if we are part of the ekklesia, raised in the image of Christ, would it be any different?

the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He (the Father does it it's okay, well), the Son also does in like manner.

0:31:34

So, He's beginning to show who He was, how long He's been doing this, and He is eminently qualified to know whether or not somebody could be healed and told to pick up his mattress and walk. And it's amazing to me how humble He is about it, and yet He's discussing His resume, what He's all about, who Christ actually is, what He's been given by the Father in this entire piece.

0:32:09

So, He only does what the Father has shown Him what to do. Now He is discussing the relationship that He has with His Father.

²⁰For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does;

So, when the Father made the entire creation, He involved and showed the Son, His Son, how He did it, what He did, and why He did it.

and He will show Him (Christ) greater works than these, that you may marvel.

0:33:07

Going on, He's beginning to instruct us in His capacity, as a Son of God.

²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son

In who's image we are being made over

gives life to whom He will.

So, the capacity that Christ had was given to Him by His Father.

0:33:48

Going on, verse 22.

²²For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

It's important to remember that. The Father has delegated judgment to His Son. There's a tie-in here shortly.

²³that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father.

0:34:16

So, God has set in motion, you honor My Son just like you honor Me. He's telling them who He was, the capacity He has, do we begin to see that?

He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Well, who put Him in that place? Who set those rules in place, was it not God the Father?

²⁴"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,

0:35:08

The resume keeps getting bigger.

and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

So, He has the authority to lay out the value of His words, Christ's words, who were given to Him by the Father, and the importance of doing that, being grafted into life, future life.

²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you,

0:35:43

So, we are getting into what He is now going to do in the future. He has covered off what He has done in the past, what His relationship is with the Father. And He is telling the locals here, who didn't think He had it right when He raised somebody by healing him and telling him to pick up his mattress and walk, of the things He will do in the future.

²⁵Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

0:36:23

So, we go back to verse 21.

²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son even so, the Son gives life to whom He will.

So, we are beginning to learn what Christ actually did, and what He will do. Now what He says here.

²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself.

0:36:50

If we go back to Timothy, He alone, the Father has immortality, life inherent.

so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

So, He is telling us here how He came about. The Father gave Him that.

²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

If we go back to verse 22

²²For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

0:37:32

So, He gave it to Him, and here in verse 27 we see that He has now given authority to execute that judgment that was given to Him by the Father because He's the Son of Man. The Father never lived as a human being; Christ lived as a human being. He knows what it is like to be human, and because He does the Father has given Him the capacity to execute that judgement.

²⁸Do not marvel at this:

He goes on to say:

for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice

The Son of Man.

²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation

0:38:33

So, not only can Christ heal somebody and tell him to pick up his mattress, He now shows us that He has the future capacity to assign eternal life to people and to condemn them. Can we see that the whole idea, that He wasn't qualified to heal this fellow and pick up his mattress, is just absurd?

0:39:06

But this is what He's doing, He's laying out the things about Himself. This is the Being in whom the ekklesia are being made over in the image of.

³⁰I can of myself do nothing.

Do you think that might be a really good mantra for a future Son of God to begin to adopt?

0:39:42

I can of myself do nothing.

As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

Will the future Sons of God seek the will of their Father, and only do things in harmony with the Father's will? Do you suppose that might fit?

³¹"If I bear witness of Myself, My witness is not true. ³²There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. ³³You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

0:40:36

So, He's laying out the program, He's laying out what it's like to be the Son of God, He's laying out how He got there, what His involvement is on behalf of the Father, and He's doing all these things and saying all these things, that they might be saved.

³⁵He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. ³⁶But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me (the Son) to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You (The ones He's spoken to) have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

0:41:35

Christ did.

³⁸But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. ⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

0:41:59

He's pointing out to them that He's the source of eternal life, with His teaching, that the Father gave to Him to tell people.

⁴¹"I do not receive honor from men. ⁴²But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you. ⁴³I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me;

They wanted to kill Him because somehow, in their own mind, their perception, the image of God that they had, Christ just didn't fit the bill.

0:42:40

He was doing things that just did not compute for them. They had been deceived into understanding another god, and when the Father sent His Son who could save, you've seen me, you have seen the Father, they had never seen the Father, and Christ told them that. Can we see that this is a constant discourse, brought about by the Jews perceiving that He just couldn't and shouldn't be doing the things that He did.

0:43:19

And Christ was now telling us who He is, what He is, why He is, how He came about, what He will do in the future, and how He's the door to eternal life. Can we see that? Verse 43

⁴³I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. ⁴⁴How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

0:43:57

Christ knew there was only one God, Christ also knew that He was the Son of God, and He fully understood the role that a Son of God performs and does, and He was bringing them up to speed about what that was all about.

⁴⁵Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. ⁴⁶For if you believed Moses,

0:44:37

And they didn't.

you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

How much of what we just read do we believe of what Christ says about Himself? He told us what He has been doing as God's Son, He told us how He does these things, living by God's every word and actions, He references His capacity. He can do all of those things, but somehow, He can't heal a man.

0:45:33

He references His true relationship with Yehovah, to where God has assigned, that if we can't honor Him, they don't honor the Father either. And He tells us what He is going to do in the future. Isn't that rather amazing? But how much of it do we believe? We can do lots of things, but actually believing God is another thing.

0:46:23

How much of the Trinitarian or Binitarian teaching do you think, is involved in hiding this from our eyes, so we can't see the Son? Something to think about.