

## **Lent Day 18**

March 21, 2017

### **Reading:** Romans 8:1-17

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

### **Reflection**

I once had a pastor who used this illustration: In the old west there was the town drunk who rode into town everyday, hitched up his horse outside of the saloon and then got drunk. One day someone was able to brake through to him with the gospel and he became a Christian. So his routine changed, but only slightly. Now he rode into town, hitched his horse outside of the saloon and went to church. One day the church was closed, so as he went to get his horse and as he was untying it, looked up at the saloon and went in. Guess what happened? The moral of the story is that you need to hitch your horse to a different post.

Paul has a similar point here. The change that has occurred in us is total — we were once in the realm of sin, but now we are in the realm of Christ. That being the case we need to hitch our minds to the Spirit post, not the sin post. This is so because the mind in the realm of sin cannot please God.

So, how is it going as you travel through this season of lent? Where is your horse hitched? Is your mind and life matching the total change that has happened when you gave your life to Christ? How will you change where you tie up?

### **Prayer**

Father God, thank you for the freedom we have in Christ and the opportunity to receive life and peace. Amen.