

Sunday March 15 ~ Promise of Hope ~ Romans 8:1-10

C. S. Lewis wrote, "The fact that our heart yearns for something Earth can't supply is proof that Heaven must be our home." I recently lost two step-grandparents within about six months of each other. Both times we all gathered together to reflect on their lives through laughter, tears, and joy. But there was still a void that each of us noticed. However, our hearts have hope knowing that we will see them again.

This hope is given to us through Christ. Christ's death allows each of us to be granted the greatest fulfillment of the human heart - a rescue from ourselves! To be left to ourselves is death and condemnation. But those in Christ Jesus get life, eternal life, a life which none of us can fully understand here on earth. No condemnation means that we are declared righteous and clean because of Christ's sacrifice. May we all live this life with the joy of hope for what is to come.

Talarie Hayes is a Kindergarten teacher at Putnam Primary. She is married to John, and they have two children, Natalie and Coalson. They have lived in Madison since 2012. She serves on the Council of Ministries as the Nurture Chairperson.

Life Through the Spirit

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you^[a] free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,^[b] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.^[c] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those 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. ⁶The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life^[d] because of righteousness.

Footnotes:

- a. **Romans 8:2** The Greek is singular; some manuscripts *me*
- b. **Romans 8:3** In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verses 4-13.
- c. **Romans 8:3** Or *flesh, for sin*
- d. **Romans 8:10** Or *you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive*