

No Longer Condemned # 24

Romans 8: 1-4

Tonight we begin to examine what many consider the most significant chapter within the book of Romans. It is the longest chapter of the book and covers various aspects of our salvation. This eighth chapter refers to the Holy Spirit more than any other chapter in the book. In fact, the other references in Romans put together do not speak of the Spirit as much as this chapter.

Paul has revealed his heart in the previous chapter, confessing his continual struggle with the flesh. He has spoken at length of the depravity of the flesh and our great need of salvation in Christ Jesus. Now his attention is turned to the abundant life we can enjoy in Christ. He deals extensively with the Spirit filled life of the believer.

Those who are in Christ, enjoying victory over the flesh, experience life that is vastly different from the rest of the world. We have been liberated from the condemnation of sin and death. Our perspective is much different than before. The believer has reason to rejoice for the great liberty we have in Christ. Let's examine the opening verses of this great book as we consider the [assurances](#) Paul gives. I want to preach on the thought: [No Longer Condemned](#).

I. Deliverance from the Penalty of Sin (1) – [There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.](#) Although we may continue to struggle with the flesh, even failing from time to time, we can rejoice that we have been delivered from the condemnation of sin, which is death. The believer is delivered from the penalty of sin. Notice Paul's explanation. He speaks of:

A. The Timing – Paul describes an immediate act of deliverance that occurs at the moment of salvation. The believer's deliverance from condemnation and death isn't a process that happens over time. It is an immediate exoneration from all guilt and absolute deliverance from our deserved judgment and death sentence. There is NOW no condemnation for the saved.

- That certainly ought to bring comfort to the hearts of all the saved. I am not trusting in something I hope will one day come to pass. I am resting in a present state of forgiveness and release from all condemnation. As Jesus fulfilled the plan and will of God by giving His life for the remission of sin, He completely secured our redemption. When one receives Christ as Savior in salvation, the condemnation of sin is immediately removed, never to be remembered or brought up again. If you are saved, you are justified in the sight of God at this moment!

B. The Triumph – *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.* Paul also emphasizes the fact that there is absolutely no condemnation for the saved. This speaks of absolute and complete cessation of guilt and accusation. The believer is set free from any sentence or declaration of guilt, along with complete release from deserved punishment for the sin we had committed. There is no record of our transgression remembered against us.

- We remain obligated to live a life that honors the Lord and bears witness of our conversion, but we no longer need to fear the righteous judgment of God. Christ bore the wrath of God as He endured His judgment on our behalf. Christ suffered in agony upon the cross so we could escape the judgment we deserved. As we stand before God, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, we are viewed in light of the holiness of the Son. *Rom.5:18 – Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.* Consider the thoughts of H.A. Ironside: *What unspeakable relief it is to the bewildered, troubled soul, oppressed with a sense of his own unworthiness, and distressed because of frequent failures to live up to his own highest resolves, when he learns that God sees him in Christ Jesus, and as thus seen he is free from all condemnation. He may exclaim, "But I feel so condemned." This however is not the question. It is not how I feel but it is what God says. He sees me in Christ risen, forever beyond the reach of condemnation.*ⁱ

C. The Transition (1) – *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* This wondrous state of justification before God is not limited, but it is exclusive. Paul reveals those who are *in Christ Jesus* have been delivered from condemnation. Jesus alone was worthy to atone for sin. He alone was worthy to purchase our redemption. The Father was pleased with the sacrifice of the Son, but He is not impressed with the works or deeds of men. In order to be liberated from sin and death, one must be born again in Christ Jesus, having his sin covered and cleansed through the shed blood of Christ. There is no other way of justification before God. Apart from Christ, one remains in sin and thus bears the penalty for his sin.

- Again we are reminded of the necessity of salvation. Being a good, moral person doesn't cancel one's debt in sin. Being baptized and joining the church doesn't erase the guilty charges. Jesus stands as the only means of justification and acceptance to God. *1 John 5:12 – He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

II. Deliverance from the Power of Sin (2) – *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* Prior to Christ our lives were dominated by sin. For those who are in Christ, we have been set free from the domination of sin and death. Paul refers to:

A. The Law of Sin (2) – He speaks of being freed from the law of sin and death which reminds us of the time when we were all bound by sin and death. Left to himself, man is capable of all manner of depravity. There is no limit or restraint to the lengths he will go to satisfy the appetite of the flesh. Our lives were dominated by those desires. John reveals the three areas in which we engage in sin. [1 John 2:16 – For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.](#)

- Regardless of our race, social standing, or upbringing, every one born into this life is dominated by the desires of the flesh to sin. There is no hope of escape within our own ability. Naturally some show more signs of depravity through the activities they engage in, but all are dominated by sin apart from the saving grace of the Lord. Until one is freed from the bondage of sin, he remains a slave to the master of sin.

B. The Lord of Sanctification (2) – [For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.](#) There is a remedy for the law of sin and death however. We do not have to remain in bondage to the flesh and master of sin. Christ Jesus can set us free from the power of sin over our lives and enable us to live life for Him. At the moment of conversion, we receive a lifelong partner who goes with us wherever we go. He is always present to lead and guide our lives. He stands as our comfort, our conviction, our guide, and our stay. The law of sin and death is replaced by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ. We are indwelt with the Holy Spirit.

- Being in Christ does not remove us from all temptation to sin. In fact, we have discussed the presence of temptation and we know it remains as long as we live. The desires of the flesh are not removed from the believer, but we are given all we need to overcome and live sanctified lives in Christ through the Holy Spirit. [Rom.6:17-18 – But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.](#) ^[18] [Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.](#)

III. Deliverance from the Practice of Sin (3-4) – These final verses go hand in hand with [V.2](#). As we are delivered from the power of sin, we gain strength and are delivered from the practice of sin. Consider:

A. The Tendency of the Flesh (3a) – [For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.](#) We are reminded of the inadequacy of the law to save, based primarily on man's inability to keep the law. Paul reminds us that we all have a tendency to sin. It is within our nature. God's standard is absolute perfection in holiness, and we were unable to live good enough to obtain his

righteousness because of the desire to sin. John Phillips stated: *It was not that God asked too much of man, for He can be satisfied with nothing less than absolute perfection. It was that man in the flesh simply could not and cannot live up to the claims of God's law.*ⁱⁱ The flesh desires to be satisfied, and that desire creates weakness by the flesh to measure up to God's holy standard.

B. The Mercy of the Father (3b) – *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.* The flesh was weak, never able to obtain the righteousness God requires. Sin created separation from God and resulted in condemnation. God would have been just to have let us face the judgment we deserved. After all, He is our Creator and He has given His Word which reveals what He expects. However, God knew man could never measure up. He knew in ourselves we would remain in sin, condemned before Him.

- In His great mercy, He sent the only begotten Son, robed in flesh to bear our sin and deliver us from condemnation! Where the law and flesh failed, Christ Jesus our Lord prevailed. He made the way for us to be liberated from sin and condemnation.

C. The Victory of the Faithful (4) – *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* Although we continue to battle the tendency to sin, we can obtain victory in life and live in a way that honors the Lord. We no longer have to live our lives dominated by the lusts of the flesh. We now walk in the Spirit, not in the flesh.

- The righteousness of Christ is imputed to us and we are declared righteous by the Father. Those who are in Christ are not the same as before. Our desires have changed. We no longer long to please the flesh, but to honor the Lord. Our eternal destiny was changed in salvation and our temporal walk is altered as well. The saved man seeks to live in light of the righteous standard of God, in accordance with His Word through the guidance of the Spirit. What was impossible before has now become attainable in Christ!

Conclusion: There can be no doubt that the Spirit filled life is far better than the life dominated by sin. There is nothing the world offers that compares with what I have in Christ. There is nothing to go back to. Are you living the Spirit filled life? Are you free from condemnation and sin? If not the time is now to seek the Lord. There are no guarantees of tomorrow. If you are unsaved, you remain in condemnation. There is deliverance in Christ if you will only seek Him.

ⁱ H.A. Ironside Expository Commentary - H. A. Ironside Commentary – Romans.

ⁱⁱ John Phillips Commentary Series, The - The John Phillips Commentary Series – Exploring Romans: An Expository Commentary.