

**Not Ashamed
(Week 19)
Romans 8:1-9
“In Christ Alone”**

Introduction

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

The **Eighth Chapter of Romans** has often been called things like “the crown jewel of all scripture”. The chapter begins with arguably the most liberating verse in the entire *Bible*. It unequivocally proclaims that those who are “In Christ Jesus” shall never be subject to condemnation. The Greek word here that is translated “condemnation” is *Katakrima* (pronounced *kat-ak'-ree-mah*) and is used to describe a sentence or punishment for crimes committed. The message here is clear. Those who place their faith in the LORD Jesus Christ shall never be punished for their sins. They are completely and permanently forgiven.

This is why the message of the cross is called “the good news”. For it is the only hope for the redemption of fallen mankind. In **Romans 3:20**, Paul makes it abundantly clear that no one can save themselves by living up to God’s holy standard.

“For no one will be justified in His sight by the works of The Law, because the knowledge of sin comes through The Law.” Romans 3:20

The Law (commandments) of God was powerless to save us. All that it could do was point out our failures. The Law was never intended to save, but rather, it was intended to demonstrate our need of a Savior. Any who would believe that they are good enough to live up to the perfect standards set forth in The Law are merely deceiving themselves. *The Bible* clearly states that:

“...There is no one righteous, not even one.” Romans 3:10

Therefore, it stands to reason that all men are sinners in the sight of a holy God and, as such, are deserving of punishment (condemnation).

“For the wages of sin is death...” Romans 6:23a

As Paul slowly and carefully constructs his case for man’s need of a Savior, and just Who that Savior is, it becomes quite clear, that in order to escape the wrath of God, that is certain to be poured out upon those who cannot live according to The Law, we must look to something or Someone much greater than ourselves for the remedy for sin. That Someone is none other than Christ. And those who are found “in Him”, upon that great day of reckoning, when all accounts with God are settled, will be declared guiltless before the throne! Those who are “in Christ” shall receive no condemnation. No wonder **Romans 8:1** has been declared by so many students of Scripture to be the most encouraging of all verses. It reassures the believer of all the security that he has in Christ. No accusation can be leveled against us, for the words “no condemnation” resound in our hearts and assure us of the victory that has been won on our behalf. In this first section of Romans, we are reminded once more of all that is ours in Christ Jesus. In Him, we are Saved, Set Free, and Spirit Filled. Please allow me to explain.

Saved

“Therefore, there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus...”

Romans 8:1

The KJV Bible adds this phrase to verse one: **...“who walk not after the flesh, but after The Spirit.”** This phrase was added sometime later, most likely by a scribe, for it does not appear in the earlier manuscripts. It is a repetition of *verse four* and should not be connected to this particular verse. Placing it in conjunction with the actual words of Paul: **“Therefore, there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus”**, actually weakens the argument that Paul is making. The point of salvation by grace through faith is that no human merit is connected to it. Yes, the believer in Christ is compelled by His new nature to follow the leading of The Holy Spirit, but this is not a means to his salvation, but rather, proof of it. Obedience is a by-product of salvation, as it were. Salvation has nothing to do with us, and everything to do with Christ. It isn't based in any shape form or fashion upon what we do, but rather, it is completely and freely given based upon what Jesus did. Paul has already explained to us how we are placed in Christ Jesus, and that is by grace alone, through faith alone.

There are two important truths manifested in this verse that are indisputable. First, salvation is unmerited (which we have already discussed), and second, salvation is never ending. Listen to the exact wording, and you will find two very small, but important, words: IS and IN.

“Therefore, the IS no condemnation for those IN Christ Jesus...” (emphasis added)

Notice that the verse leaves no room for a falling away from our salvation. There IS no condemnation. Those, who have been genuinely saved, have been permanently delivered from God's wrath. That's actually what the Greek word for salvation means, “*deliverance*”. To be a believer in Jesus is to be permanently delivered from the punishment of our sins. You see, our sins, ceased to be ours when we put our trust in Christ. Our sins were placed upon Him. He took them upon Himself and paid their penalty once and for all! And as such, they are gone, remembered no more, as far as the east is from the west (**Psalms 103:12**).

I always loved that verse. Have you ever wondered why He didn't say as far as The North is from the South? For you see, The Psalmist who penned those words had no real concept that the world was round, but the Spirit Who inspired it did. We now know that if you go far enough to the South, you will eventually be headed North again. But no matter how far to the East that you travel, you will always be going East, and no matter how far to the West you go, you will always be heading West! Those two never overlap! There is a wonderful truth in this: once your sins have been placed upon Christ, they are never coming back to you! They are no longer yours. He took them away... forever. Our *forgiven* status is permanent in Christ Jesus. Your salvation from wrath is unending. There IS no condemnation.

Also, as we have previously studied in this wonderful book, to be a believer in Christ is to be baptized IN Christ. It means that we have become one with Him. You cannot be made one with something, and then, be separated once more. I like to use the analogy of a cake. Once all the ingredients are mixed in the batter, they can never again be removed. When we placed our faith in Christ, we became permanently fixed into Christ. So, do you see the importance of these two tiny words when considering your eternal security? **These IS no condemnation for those who are IN Christ Jesus!** We have been wonderfully saved by grace through faith. And this salvation is not about what we have done, but what He did, and He did it in such a way that it can never be undone! What wonderful deliverance we have been given in Christ!

“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — not from works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

Set Free

“...because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. What The Law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, in order that The Law’s requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to The Spirit.”

Romans 8:2-4

Christ has set us free from **“the law of sin and death”**. Paul is not talking about the commandments here, but rather a spiritual law, that requires punishment (condemnation) for all who sin and fall short of the glory of God. It is much like the law of gravity. If an object is dropped, we know that gravity will pull it to the ground. There is no getting around gravity, unless something stronger than gravity (a stronger law) intervenes.

I love baseball. So, I will use the game as an analogy here. When a fly ball is hit into the air, no matter how hard it tries, it cannot overcome the law of gravity. Sooner or later, that fly ball is going to come down. Even the greatest hitters who ever lived haven’t hit a ball that has never landed. But then, enter the outfielder. He places himself in position to catch the ball, and with his great athletic ability, he runs it down and catches it in his glove before it hits the ground. In short, that outfielder employed a force that was stronger than the pull of gravity. He stopped the ball from the end result that the law of gravity required. In this instance, the athlete was “greater” than the law of gravity.

In order for us to be set free from the law of sin and death, we needed Someone greater than that law to intervene. Paul calls this “the law of The Spirit of Life”. This “law” had to be greater than the law of sin and death, if we were to be kept from falling, as it were. And that is exactly what we got! Jesus was/is greater than the law of sin and death. Though we were required to die for the sins we had committed, Jesus took away those sins and defied the law of sin and death. We were falling, and He caught us.

“What The Law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering.”

vs. 3

NOW, Paul is talking about The Law of Moses. It could only point out our sin, but couldn’t save us. The Law showed us for what we are, and we deserved death. Jesus took our place as a sin offering. In *The Old Testament*, animals were sacrificed as a substitute for those who had sinned. But those animal sacrifices merely postponed the coming wrath. It was like paying the minimum balance on your credit card each month. You know full well, that your debt can never be repaid in this way. In much the same way, those sacrifices were not sufficient to take away sins. They only pointed to The One Who would come and pay the debt permanently. Jesus took our place and fully satisfied the debt that we owed on the cross.

“in order that The Law’s requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to The Spirit.”

vs. 4

Now, THERE is where that phrase belongs! “Those of us who walk according to The Spirit” is talking about Christians. We have been given a new nature (mind-set) that longs to live according to God’s standards. And, we have also been given the Spirit of God to allow us to power-up that new mindset. Remember in *Chapter Seven*, when Paul described his futile attempts to power-up his new nature in the power of his own strength? The results were disastrous. But here, we are told how to make it work. Here, we are shown how to overcome our own sinful bodies... by the power of The Spirit.

There is only one Person who was ever able to live in a body of flesh and completely control sinful desires. His Name is Jesus. So, why would we even attempt to control our own fleshly desires without His guidance? The only way that we can live according to The Law’s requirements is to yield ourselves over to the control of His Spirit. Then, and only then, can we overcome the desires of the flesh.

So let's recap shall we? In Christ, we are completely and forever forgiven. And upon receiving this salvation, we are given a new mind-set that longs to follow Christ, but we do not have the power to wield it on our own. So, God places within us His Spirit, so we can live the way that our new mind wants to live. We long to please Christ, and His Spirit gives us the power to do it. Apart from Him... we can do nothing (**John 15:5**).

Spirit Filled

"For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to The Spirit have their minds set on the things of The Spirit. Now the mind-set to the flesh is death, but the mind-set of The Spirit is life and peace. The mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh, but in The Spirit, if indeed The Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him." **Romans 8:5-9**

So, you might ask, "What about those people, who say they belong to Christ, but have no desire to please Him?" Well, quite frankly, there is no such thing. To be truly saved and delivered from condemnation, automatically endows a person with a new nature, a new "mind-set" as Paul calls it. It is impossible to be in Christ and not have this new nature. It is our old nature that we inherited from Adam that doesn't long to please God.

"Now the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of The Spirit is life and peace. The mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's Law. Indeed it is unable to do so. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." **vs. 6-8**

Paul is speaking about lost people here. They have no desire to please God, because they do not have the mind-set (new nature) of The Spirit. The lost person is at war with God, and as such, content in their state of rebellion. You cannot be saved, if you do not have an inward desire to live according to God's law... Period.

But Paul then continues with his message to Christians:

"You, however, are not in the flesh, but in The Spirit, if indeed The Spirit of God lives in you." **vs. 9a**

So, you see, everyone, who has been delivered from condemnation, is set free from the law of sin and death. They are given a new nature that longs to live according to God's Law and the power of The Holy Spirit, so that they can live in obedience to The Law. This is who we are... IN Christ. We have been Saved, Set Free, and Spirit Filled. And as the writer of *Hebrews* has so wonderfully said:

"How will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" **Hebrew 2:3**

I couldn't agree more.

So, let all of God's people say... TRUTH!!!