

5/4/03

No Condemnation, Romans 8:1-4
Sermon #1 on Romans 8
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Turn with me please in your Bibles to the Book of Romans. We are working through the Book of Romans and we have covered Chapters 1-7, and we come today to Romans 8. I'll be reading and focusing upon vv. 1-4.

Romans 8:1-4

V. 1, Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

V. 2, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

V. 3, For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

V. 4, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

Let's pray.

The first truth from these four verses that I want you to notice is that Paul assures us that something has changed, something has been lifted from the head of the believer. We are told this in v. 1.

"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

You'll remember that I have told you from our previous studies in Romans that the word, "condemnation" in its most basic form means "declaration of guilt." Based upon all that Paul has told us in the previous 7 chapters about what God has done for believing sinners, for sinners who place faith in Christ, Paul says, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation (no declaration of guilt) for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Well why is this truth important? It is important because it is under the sentence of condemnation that every person is born into this world. John 3:18 says this: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." Well when did this condemnation happen? It happened as we learned back in Romans 5 when Adam, the first human sinned, his sin brought God's condemnation upon all of his physical progeny.

Look back at Romans 5:16 and 18.

V. 16, "Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and

brought condemnation..." Well, who did it bring condemnation to? Look at v. 18, "Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men ..."

That is when it came and that is how it came. It is a sentence pronounced by God upon you and it is an awful sentence. It is a declaration of guilt for sin.

But, and listen to me closely here, when God uses the word, "condemnation" or "condemned" in the Scriptures, it not only means "declaration of guilt for sin", but when God uses it, it also carries the nuance of the sentence or the punishment that is due the person because of his guilt. It means, "declaration of guilt and the certain execution of the sentence in hell." In other words, God says you are guilty and there is no appeal from you to me, you will perish in hell because of your sins.

Now we see the word used in this way in John 3 again.

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

V. 17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Now, what Paul is telling us then in Romans 8:1 is this, "Therefore, there is now no declaration of guilty and no sentence of hell for those who are in Christ Jesus." In this one verse, Paul is saying that God has taken away our sins and the sentence to hell that was due us because of our sins.

Now there are three other things that I want you to notice about this blessing, this change that has come to believing sinners, this present reality.

(1.) And I want you to notice also WHEN this gift exists. Notice that Paul tells us that we possess this blessing, this treasure, this gift NOW. Paul says, "There is NOW (presently, now, right now, you don't have to wait until the future to get it or to know if you have it) no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." It is blessed present reality. I don't have to wait to get this gift in the future; as a believer I possess it now.

(2.) I also want you to notice that it is a wonderful, eternal blessing that Christians presently possess, but also permanently possess. Paul is going to tell us that at the end of Romans 8. Look at vv. 31-39.

(3.) And I want you to notice WHO possesses this gift. Look at Romans 8:1 again, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." This present and permanent blessing of sin and the subsequent sentence of hell has been lifted from those who are in Christ Jesus. It is not for everyone. Paul limits it only to those who are in Christ Jesus. How do you get "in Christ Jesus?" Only through yielding your present and future life in faith to Him as your Savior and Lord. God sent a Redeemer into the world and named Him Jesus the Christ.

(4.) Paul also tells us HOW all this could be or WHY it is possible. Look at Romans 8:2, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, V. 2, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Remember in v. 1, Paul has just told us that there is now no condemnation upon us. Now he is telling us HOW all this can be so. It is because "through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." Remember what the law of sin and death is? It is described for us in Romans 5:12-7:25. Look at 7:23-25. The law of sin and death includes two things:

1.) All men are declared guilty of sin and sentenced to die for Adam's sin and their own sins (Rom. 3:23, 5:18).

2.) All men are in bondage to sin and are internally powerless to break away from this slavery to sin and to live righteously (in a way that pleases God). Sin reigns in the life of all believers.

But Paul assures us in Romans 8:2, that this is all done now. "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

Now in vv. 3-4, Paul is going to elaborate upon this truth.

V. 3, "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

V. 4, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."

NOTES:

Wuest: "The Christian's position in Christ has liberated him from the compelling power of the evil nature and made him a partaker of the divine nature, a new inner condition which produces in every saint a life which has for its motive, obedience to His commandments."

"The control of the Holy Spirit is in the form of the energy given the believer both to desire and to do God's will."

Wuest

V. 2 is Romans 6 in a nutshell.

"The Spirit which brings the believer the life which is in Christ Jesus, brings with it also the divine law for the believer's life." Wuest

"That the aim of God in giving the law might be accomplished in us, in our sanctification, which is the ultimate end of our redemption (Col. 1:22; Eph. 2:10). The passive is used, to show that the work is not ours, but that of God by His grace." Wuest

Why is it important to know that you are not condemned before God? You will never grow in grace and in your love and service to God until you have settled this issue. Illustrate this truth through a parent's acceptance.

Notice how all three members of the Trinity play a part in man's redemption. All three members of the Trinity are mentioned in vv. 1-4.

The noun "condemnation" (v. 1) has its counterpart in the verb "condemned" (v. 3).

Paul has already told us about the enslaving power of sin and the freedom from it accomplished by Christ (6:18, 22). Jesus anticipated this truth in John 8:34-36.

The law of God makes demands and it condemns when those demands are not met, but it cannot empower. This inability of the law of God required personal action on the part of God. And this is what God did. He sent his Son.

The Son was sent in the "likeness of sinful man" (flesh). Observe with what care Paul describes the sinless person of Jesus in his incarnate state. Paul does not say, "in sinful flesh" lest one think that Jesus himself sinned. Nor does Paul say "in the likeness of flesh" which would indicate that he wasn't really human, but only appeared to be human.

So we read in these verses about Christ's person and about his work. As to his work, he was sent to be a sin offering. That was the chief purpose of his coming to the earth.

Justification always leads to sanctification.

The word "condemn" is used in the New Testament in the sense of consigning to destruction as well as of pronouncing the sentence of guilt (I Cor. 11:32; II Pet. 2:6). This is to say that condemnation is viewed as not only the sentence, but also putting the sentence into execution.

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Romans 8:1-4

Pastor Wesley Gene Rowe

Power Point

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A VERY IMPORTANT TRUTH THAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW!
Something has changed, something has been lifted from the head of the believer. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Under the sentence of condemnation every person is born into the world. John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

Romans 5:16, 18.

V. 16, "Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation..."

V. 18, "Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men ..."

The word, "condemnation" when used by God often includes not only the "declaration of guilt" but also "the certain execution of the sentence in hell."

John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

V. 17, "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

Four additional truths that Paul informs us about this lifting of the declaration and sentence of condemnation.

(1.) Paul tells us WHEN this gift exists. "There is NOW no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

(2.) Paul tells us that this wonderful blessing that Christians presently possess, they also PERMANENTLY possess. Paul is going to tell us that at the end of Romans 8: vv. 31-39.

(3.) Paul wants us to know WHO possesses this gift. "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

(4.) Paul tells us HOW all this could be or WHY it is possible. Romans 8:2, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, V. 2, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

7:23-25:

v. 23, "...but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work in my members.

v. 24, What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

v. 25, Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."

The "law of sin and death" includes two things:

1.) All men are declared guilty of sin and sentenced to die for Adam's sin and their own sins (Rom. 3:23, 5:18).

2.) All men are in bondage to sin and are internally powerless to break away from this slavery to sin and to live

righteously (in a way that pleases God). Sin reigns in the life of all believers.

Romans 8:2, "because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."

In vv. 3-4, Paul elaborates upon what God did for sinners through Jesus.

V. 3, "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

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