

Free From Condemnation 2

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

❖ Introduction

- I do believe... these verses should lead us to genuine worship today...
 - Your Worship comes from a place where you have seen:
 - Oh... I am a sinner... what a terrible sinner... And I truly deserve condemnation from God...
 - But I see and believe what He has done for me... I see and experience His Mercy on my soul...
 - ◆ Therefore: My response is Genuine Worship...
- All of Scripture should do that to us...
 - But... these verses stand out as shots of Adrenaline...
- Romans 8:1 should be a shot of Adrenaline to our weak and apathetic hearts...
 - And if it does not jolt you... then you may be too far gone

❖ There is Therefore now no...

- Therefore what? Look back at Romans 7:25 ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 - Therefore... because of what Jesus has done there is no condemnation... Remember last week...

❖ 1) What is Condemnation?

- There are a couple ways for us to understand the word: condemn or condemnation...
 - 1) An Accusatory Nature with no power to Prosecute...
 - The court of public opinion is really good at condemning people and actions...
 - But... they hold no power to bring about consequences
 - Illustration:
 - ◆ A celebrity behaves in a very improper way... they say or do something despicable
 - So... the public and the media speak against their actions
 - You might could say... they condemn the actions of the celebrity
 - But... that is as far as they can go... A spoken condemnation
 - 2) And Accusatory Nature with Power to Prosecute
 - This is like a Court of Law... The person can be condemned for their actions...
 - One... by saying... this court condemns your actions... with a statement...
 - But... also with a Sentencing... You are condemned to... "life in prison"
 - Illustration:
 - ◆ The celebrity is also taken to court over their actions...
 - ◆ The court finds them guilty but also passes down a judgment against them
 - ◆ There is a judgment that is able to be carried out.
 - ◆ The court has been given the authority to pass out judgment
- 1) So: God Almighty has the authority to Condemn and to pass down judgment
 - James 4:12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy.
- And He does... to all who will not believe... they will be condemned to Hell
 - John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

❖ 2) What Does "No Condemnation" Mean for Those in Christ Jesus?

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus
- In the Negative Sense...

- It means you will be exempt from Judgment...
- You will be exempt from the fires of hell
- You will be exempt from eternal separation from God
- You will **not** be condemned...
- **In the Positive... it means many more glorious things... (All from Chapter 8 only)**
 - I listed 16... not gonna do that now... just one... then sum the others up with a statement
 - **1) We Have Been Set Free from Law of Sin and Death**
 - 8:2 the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death
 - **Summary: No Condemnation...** means that God loves you and is for you in all things because you are His eternally beloved adopted Children.
- ❖ **3) What Does it Mean to Be in Christ Jesus?**
 - 8:1-2 ... no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus... Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus
 - **Those who are in Christ... are those who...**
 - By Faith... been united with Christ...
- ❖ **4) What Does He Mean by saying we are “Set free from the law of Sin and Death”?**
 - For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
 - **So Here we have to work really hard to follow Paul’s teaching...**
 - **1) First thing to Notice is: “the law of sin and death” is the same as the law of sin from chapter 7**
 - Follow the flow of the text... (I want you to see the connection)
 - Romans 7:21-8:2 ²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. ^{8:1} There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
 - **Paul has this “Law of sin and death” in mind...**
 - **And he explains it one step at a time...**
 - 1) He says: I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand
 - 2) The he says: I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind
 - ◆ same law in mind here... he says another law in contrast with the “law of his mind”
 - 3) Then He names it more fully saying “the law of sin that dwells in my members”
 - 4) Finally he writes that he “with his flesh he serves the law of sin”
 - ◆ So... Finally we move into 8:2 and see... “the law of sin and death”
 - **And... I think he adds... “and death” so the readers know the results of “the law of sin”**
 - But, then... he goes on to say... He has been set free from law of sin and death...
 - **What is the Law of Sin and Death**
 - It is a law that mankind has been subjected to...
 - **Sin is at work in a person...** their bodies are tempted with sin...
 - And when a person is defeated by the law of sin and death...
 - Death comes to them. Some of it gradually over time
 - ◆ And at some point it will come finally...
 - **The law of sin and death states that it can cause men to miss God’s Mark of Right...**
 - And by breaking such mark... the man deserves death
 - **Summary of the Law: Sin Leads to Death...** physical and Spiritual Death...

- **2) The Question: Why does he say he is set free from sin and death but in ch.7 say he serves it?**
 - Paul writes in 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
 - I want to focus in on... “but with my flesh I serve the law of sin”
 - Then he writes here in 8:2 For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- **Do You See the Conundrum? (Conundrum is just another way of saying... puzzle or mystery)**
 - On one hand he says he serves the law of sin... on the other he says he is set free...
 - Seems like many could mistake this as Paul contradicting himself...
 - Or... it may cause someone to say... Well... this must be Paul at two different stages in his life
 - One... before he is saved... and the other after he is saved...
- **So... what do we do? Because we have already established...**
 - Paul was speaking of himself in the present tense... not at two different stages...
 - Rather... the whole time he is speaking of himself as a Christian...
 - So... we are able to see ourselves in view here... if you are a believer in Jesus
 - **I think the issue at hand... and the reason for the confusion...**
 - Is because there is a misunderstanding of what Paul means by
 - ♦ serving the law of sin with his flesh
 - ♦ And... being set free from the law of sin and death
 - They can be and obviously are both true
- **What it Can't Mean: (Let's take them one at a time)**
 - **1) with my flesh I serve the law of sin...(What it can't mean)**
 - This can not mean that Paul is completely and utterly enslaved to the law of sin...
 - **Why?** Because... He has just said... “I myself serve the law of God with my mind...”
 - ♦ You are able to see that Paul is not utterly defeated by sin as he once was
 - Enslaved to various passions...
 - ♦ **And there are so many other places throughout chapter 8...**
 - That show He is not left hopeless and without the ability to fight...
 - ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit
 - **This phrase would mean something else altogether for a non-Christian...**
 - ♦ Because... they would ONLY serve the law of sin in the flesh...
 - ♦ They would not also... be serving the law of God with their mind...
 - **2) set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death...(What it can't mean)**
 - Well... it can't mean that we are 100% set free...
 - Because... obviously... there is a battle ground where sin can still win
 - ♦ If not... why does he say:
 - ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
 - We still have weaknesses... and here the Spirit prays for us...
 - Why do we need help in weakness if we are already 100% free of sin
 - ♦ Why did he tell us in **Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.**
- **Therefore it Must Mean:**
 - **1) Serving the law of sin must mean:**
 - That there is a battle going on in our bodies...
 - And sin is still trying to get us to dishonor God with our actions...
 - But... there is a big BUT... **We have been set free**
 - **2) Being set free from the law of sin and death must mean...**
 - Jesus has won the victory

- Sin does not have the hold on us that it used to have... We do not have to give into it...
- It's end game of death... it has no power over us...
- One Pastor/Teacher put it like this: we are set free 1) decisively 2) Progressively 3) Finally
 - ◆ Just not 4) Yet Fully
- **Remember our Analogy of Being Set free from and enemy camp behind enemy lines?**
- **Summed up in One Verse:**
 - **Romans 8:10 "But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness."**
 - Here is how the conundrum is solved... they are both true... just maybe not the way we first thought... But... there is no contradiction...
 - With Christ in you... Your body is considered dead for now... because of Sin...
 - ◆ But... the Spirit is alive... Your Spirit has been awakened... and it is alive...
 - And the Spirit of God is alive within you...
- **There is an Application: This is all so MASSIVELY important to You!**
 - You need to Examine Yourself and see: Am I living in both realities...
 - There is a way of examination... and therefore... there is a great warning right?
 - **He will say:**
 - 8:13-14 ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - ◆ **How you live matters... how you fight matters...**
 - ◆ **How you respond to your sin matters**
 - ◆ **How you follow the Spirit of God matters**
 - **He will also say:**
 - 8:9 ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**
 - ◆ **He reminds them... although you still have the flesh... a rebellious area of your life**
 - You are not in the flesh... you are not fully who you used to be
 - Rather... you are in the Spirit... Joined to Christ...
 - The Spirit is the driving force in your life right now...
 - ◆ **Then he says IF... and this word IF... should make us all stop**
 - **If the Spirit of God dwells in you...**
 - If He does... then you are in the Spirit...
 - ◆ **But you may ask the question...**
 - What does it matter if I am in the Spirit... or if the Spirit dwells in me?
 - I believe in God... I believe that Jesus was real... I believe he died...
 - ◆ **It Matters because:**
 - Paul continues... **Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**
 - Head knowledge about God... about Jesus... it does not mean you have the Spirit
 - **How do you know then?**
 - ◆ It starts with belief... it does... It begins when a person is convicted of sins...
 - And convinced by the Spirit of the truth about Jesus' life, death, resurrection
 - ◆ **The proof of the Spirit... is that He is in you... guiding you, convicting you, fighting**
 - If you have no fight against sin... no love for God's Word, for others
 - If you think evangelism is not important
 - If you think discipleship isn't for you
 - **If you think coming to church is something to check off the list...**
 - These are signs that there is either... no Spirit of God dwelling in you
 - Or... that you have quenched and grieved the Spirit of God

- **The Spirit of God is literally the presence of Jesus Christ within the believer...**
 - ◆ Therefore... what was important to Jesus while He walked this earth
 - ◆ Will also be important to the person in which the Spirit dwells...
 - That is a very simple statement... Consider it again...

❖ 5) Set Free by Who?

- **For the law of the spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus**
- **The Law of the Spirit of Life... (Here we see a new law introduced)**
 - **Before We Even Got to This Point... We have already looked at the Answer...**
 - New American Commentary: The new law of the Spirit says that only by living in union with Christ Jesus can believers break the power of sin in their lives. It is the Spirit of God who provides victory, and that Spirit is the possession of every true child of God.
 - **This Law is Greater than the law of Sin... It overrides Sin and Death... It is more powerful...**
 - Think of it like this: The law of Gravity usually wins...
 - Gravity may be winning most of your life... but... it does not beat rocket fuel...
 - Put some rocket fuel in a rocket and let it explode...
 - And gravity is no match... Rocket Fuel propels an object beyond that force of gravity
 - Although gravity is always trying to pull the rocket back down...
 - **The Law of the Spirit of Life is like rocket fuel to the law of sin and death...**
 - It Wins!... lets look again at a few verses we have already consider... but in context here...
 - **Romans 8:9-11** ⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
 - Do you see it... Paul is showing us how the law of the Spirit of Life works...
 - And we will get into it more when we come to these verses...
 - **But the most important thing you see is in verse 10**
 - ◆ The Spirit is life because of Righteousness....
 - ◆ The Righteousness of Jesus is the **power** of the law of the Spirit of Life
 - **The law of the Spirit of Life... he will... in vs 11 give life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit**
 - **The Law of the Spirit of Life...**
 - **John 6:63** ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
 - **This Spirit is poured out on the Christian at his new birth... Jesus told the crowd at a feast...**
 - **John 7:38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" ³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive

❖ Invitation:

- **Hopefully your rejoice in the law of the Spirit of Life...**
 - **Or you say... I want that to be true of me... I want... "No Condemnation"**
- And the way... to No Condemnation... is to be "in Christ"
- To be "IN Christ" and be affected by the law of the Spirit of Life.... you must have Faith...
- **And this is true Faith in the True God the Son of God Jesus Christ...**
 - Believing in Him as He is... and coming to Him under His terms of:
 - Faith and Repentance