

God Has Done the Work

Romans 8:1-4 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. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

❖ Introduction

- Today is about Good News...
 - Although verses 3 and 4 may seem technical and beyond our normal understanding
 - They are all about some really really good news.
- **When God dwelled among us, He said some very interesting things.**
 - One thing He said was a bit hard to swallow on the surface... He said...
 - **Matthew 5:20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**
 - Now, this must have been hard to hear for those in the crowd that day
 - They held the scribes and Pharisees in very high regard
 - Remember, it was Jesus that challenged the Pharisees, not the people
 - The scribes were very smart men in regards to the law of God
 - The Pharisees were very strict in their adherence to the law
 - **Jesus comes along and tells a great multitude... that they have to be even more righteous**
 - If they want to enter the kingdom of heaven... Wow
- **Paul is going to teach us today... how that is not only possible, but has been accomplished**
 - For Us... **By** Christ Jesus
 - And we get to see exactly what it was that Jesus meant when He told them this
- **Today is about really good news... It is about how... We can be that righteous!**
 - Paul shows us how we can be righteous enough to enter the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Let's look back at the first two verses of Romans 8
 - If you want to hear the sermons from Romans 8:1-2 come see me

❖ Romans 8:1-2

- **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.**
- **These two verses are about two things:**
 - 1) That those "in Christ Jesus" are Right with God
 - 2) That those "in Christ Jesus" are set free from the bondage of sin
 - We would say verse 1 is about Justification and verse 2 is about Sanctification
 - **Or we would say verse 1... there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus**
 - Is about a removal of legal guilt in God's Court
 - **And Verse 2... the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death**
 - Is about the breaking of sin's hold in the life of the believer
- **In Christ... It all hinges on "In Christ"**
 - For those who have been **united** with Jesus
 - Through **Faith**... and Faith is repenting and believing
 - For those in Christ Jesus... these things are true for them
 - 1) There is now no condemnation for the past present and future
 - 2) The Spirit is working in this "in Christ" person to make him more like Jesus

- **So... to sum it up.**
 - When Paul says there is no condemnation...
 - He means... not only is there no spoken condemnation...
 - As in... someone says... “I condemn you” but there is no authority to execute a judgment
 - **But, there is also no condemnation...**
 - As in the judge is not going to execute a judgment on you
 - Why?... because you are **in Christ Jesus...**
 - **Then... not only are you not condemned... But the Spirit of God**
 - Has set you free from sin and death...
 - So... on one hand you will see no death... (other than your outer shell passing away)
 - But you are also set free from the hold of Sin...
 - **This is not to say that sin cannot still have victories against you... it can**
 - But, you have been set free from it... It will never win the war
 - And now, with the Spirit’s help, you can fight and win
 - Sin does not have a hold on you anymore, it does not have power over you
 - You give may in to it, But, It is not your Master anymore...
 - Rather, the Spirit enables you to battle and win
- **Please understand....**
 - You are made right with God... THEN you begin the process of growing in your faith
 - Don’t put it in the wrong order... Justification then Sanctification...
 - Not... do good holy things, then your made right with God...
 - No... get right with God through Faith, then grow in your faith by doing right and fleeing from sin
 - “Our fulfilling the law is the fruit and evidence of being justified by faith.”
- **So Paul says these two amazing things...**
 - You are not condemned, and you are set free from sin’s bondage...
 - Now He is going to explain how this happens...
 - You get to go behind the scenes and see how God accomplished His Saving Work
 - You will get to see how God could save us the way He did

❖ **Outline (See Four Things)**

- **1) What is the Righteous Requirement of the Law?**
- **2) God Made Our Entry into Heaven Possible**
- **3) Jesus Fulfilled the Law for Us**
- **4) Now We Live in Accordance with the Spirit and Not the Law**

❖ **1) What is the Righteous Requirement of the Law? “the righteous requirement of the law”**

- Before we go anywhere... we need to answer this question... since it is vital to our eternal life
- **In other Words... what would perfect law keeping look like?**
 - What would you need to do... to be considered perfect to enter into God’s kingdom
 - We normally go to the 10 commandments don’t we...
 - Don’t kill, steal, blaspheme, lie, adultery, covet, make a graven image, no other gods before Him
 - Do Follow the Sabbath, honor your parents,
 - Then, we might also look to some of the other commands of the O.T. law
 - About sacrifices and offerings, etc... Maybe we look at the words of the Prophets
- **But, Keeping of the law is summed up easily... and if you look... all the commands point to this...**
 - Keeping of the law perfectly is summed up with “Love”
 - Matthew 22:36-40 ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your

mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- What is it that all the law and the Prophets depend on?
 - ◆ Loving God and Loving People!

➤ **Love is the Fulfillment of the Law**

- Romans 13:8–10 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, “you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
 - Do you see it? He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law
 - **Summary of the law:** Love your neighbor as yourself
 - Love is the fulfillment of the law

➤ **Jesus Loved Like This:**

- John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.
 - The Father gave up his Son... Jesus gave up His life...
- 1 John 4:9-10 ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
 - He loved us without us loving Him first... we love because He first loved
- Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son,
 - He loved us when we were sinners and enemies to God
- John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
 - Jesus did this
- John 14:31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.
 - Jesus did all God the Father asked... proving His love for Him
- Luke 23:34 And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
- There are hundred of things we can point to in the life of Jesus that proves:
 - His love for the Father, and His love for men

➤ **So... as we continue... we see**

- **Jesus fulfilled the law by His Perfect Love...**
 - Our faith in Him means that the law is fulfilled in us... because we are united in Him
 - This is justification
- **Therefore, our Sanctification... or our growth as Christians into Christ-likeness**
 - Which is the goal of Sanctification... (being made holy...)
 - Or we could say our “Walking in the Spirit”
 - Is Walking in Love...
- **As we mimic the Love of Christ toward God and others...**
 - We are being sanctified... this is the Proof of our Justification
 - And this is only possible because Jesus first fulfilled the law for us
 - ◆ And it has been fulfilled in us... by faith in His Work!

➤ **Does all of this make sense? I hate to ask that question!**

- **Summary: Requirement of the law is perfect love toward God and man...**
 - ◆ We didn’t do this... Did we? Do you? Even now?
 - Jesus walked in perfect love toward God and man...

- ◆ [When we are united to Jesus by Faith...](#) His perfect love is counted toward us
- **Then, we begin a process of growing in Christlikeness**
 - ◆ And this means... we are growing in our love for God and love for man
 - ◆ We will be imperfect in this all our days until we die or Jesus returns
 - ◆ But... His perfect love is already counted on our account

➤ **The Righteous Requirement of the Law... is perfect love...**

- What else do we see here in the text...?

❖ **2) God Made Our Entry into Heaven Possible**

➤ [How? By Condemning Sin in the flesh... Look at the text...](#)

- **For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,**
- As we look at this text we learn a little bit about our inability and God's powerful ability

➤ **For God has done what the law could not do...**

- **We will see God was able to condemn sin...**
 - But the law could not do this... So... here... we see that the law had limitations right?
- **What was it's limitations?**
 - **Well...** it could not make us right with God... could not condemn sin... couldn't get rid of it
 - ◆ Couldn't put an end to it
 - All it did was bring about condemnation... accusations... proof that we were imperfect

➤ **Why couldn't the law help us with our sin problem**

- Because it was **"weakened by the flesh"**
- So it wasn't that the law was imperfect... it came from God... it was His law...
- But the [instrument](#) of keeping the law was weak...
- The law was therefore weakened by the [inability](#) of our [flesh](#) to fulfill the law

➤ **So, God did something about it**

- **By Sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, he condemned sin in the flesh...**
 - So... here we learn that the sending of Jesus as a man is the solution to the sin problem
 - This would **condemn** sin... [Which means to pass and execute a judgment on sin...](#)
 - ◆ He would destroy the power of sin... The scriptures would go on to say
 - ◆ **1 Corinthians 15:54-57 Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [through](#) our Lord Jesus Christ.**
 - And He condemned sin because he...
- **Sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh**
 - God became man... He took on flesh...
 - He took on the same type of nature that we had... yet without sin
 - ◆ **John 1:14 And the word became flesh and dwelt among us**
 - ◆ **Hebrews 4:15 but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**
 - He was called Emmanuel which meant God with us
 - **Philippians 2:6-8 ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**
 - ◆ Born in the likeness of men... humbled himself unto death
 - ◆ So... he took on our nature... so that... look at the next phrase...
- **And for sin**
 - What does this mean... **"he sent his son for sin..."** It means, He came as an [offering](#) for sin...

- His purpose in coming was to offer himself up to pay for sin
- Jesus took on the form needed to pay the penalty for our sins...
 - ◆ 2 Corinthians 5:21 ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

➤ **If we could not do it... God would do it for us...**

- And this was God's plan from the beginning... even before He created man
- He had planned to come and die for man

➤ **Now... why did Jesus come as a man in the likeness of sinful flesh...**

- Look to verse 4... we have already answered this... but see it again

❖ **3) Jesus Fulfilled the Law for Us**

- ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,

➤ **Verse 3 ends by saying God "condemned sin in the flesh" ...**

- Now verse 4 says... "in order that"
 - So the sending of Jesus "in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin"
 - Had a purpose... "in order that"... This means: for the purpose of...
 - ◆ So there is a purpose to sending Jesus in this manner...

➤ **What was the Purpose?:**

- So that Jesus would fulfill the righteous requirement of the law for us... and in us...
- What was the righteous requirement of the law? Remember back...
 - Perfect love for God and Man...
 - Jesus lived this way as we have already explained...
- So, By Jesus perfect Life and Sacrificial Death
 - It is possible for a man to have the perfect law fulfilled in his life before God
 - And for his sins to be covered... no matter His Sins

➤ **Let me Summarize this:**

- **Mankind had sinned against almighty God... And because God is just**
 - He could not overlook our rebellion... and still be considered Holy and Just
- **Therefore... If God desired for men to be saved... Instead of condemned to Hell**
 - He would have to step in
 - And He would have to step in, in a judicious manner... a righteous manner...
- **For Men to be saved... One of them would have to die...**
 - But the one to die would also have to be perfect
 - Because what good does an imperfect sacrifice do
 - Yet... there was no man perfect in all His ways...
- **So, God became a man in Jesus Christ...**
 - And Jesus as a Man, lived a perfect life... fulfilling the requirements of the law
 - By loving God and man perfectly...
 - And He did this in the place of all men who would believe in Him...
- **But, living perfectly was not enough...**
 - He also had to die, so that God's wrath on sinful man would be appeased...
 - So, Jesus went to the cross and was tortured to death
 - Hebrews 9:22 Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.
 - ◆ So... Jesus did this...
 - Hebrews 9:26 But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- **How do we have this righteous requirement of the law applied to us...**

- By Faith... By Faith in who Jesus is, what Jesus did and what Jesus said
- And this is a work of the Holy Spirit... and we are to continue in this Faith
- And continue walking in the Spirit... which is where Paul goes next...

❖ 4) Now We Live in Accordance with the Spirit and Not the Law

- **who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**
- **Now things are different... for the person who has been united to Christ by faith**
 - They no longer walk according to the flesh...
 - According to trying to live up to a certain standard to be right with God
 - Even if they ignore this standard... they are still walking in accord to the flesh
 - Their flesh being in control
 - **Rather...** these men and women of faith walk... or live according to the Spirit
- **The Spirit of Christ lives and dwells within them**
 - Causing them to walk in the ways of God... The Spirit of Christ enables and empowers
 - You see... **their salvation came first...** meaning the Spirit has come to dwell within them...
 - **Then** they are able to walk in God's ways... **Not the other way around...**
 - **Not...** Walk in God's ways **then** get God... **Rather...** Get God, then walk in His ways
- **We Get the Spirit and He leads us to walk in love and in the fruit of the Spirit**
 - In Ezekiel we learn that God will pour out His Spirit within us and cause us to walk in His ways
 - In Galatians we see the specific fruit of how this looks...
 - **Galatians 5:22-23 ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**
 - **He will go on to say in 10 verses**
 - ♦ **Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**
 - **We are led by the Spirit of God... we walk in accord with the Spirit**
 - And the Spirit leads us to love as Christ loved
 - **And we walk in faith that what Jesus did...**
 - Is enough to make me right with God... And to continue growing me
- **But... Remember, it is important that we not grieve or quench the Spirit of God**
 - We do so at great hazard to our Spiritual Healthy

❖ Let me Illustrate it all for you

- **Let's say you are on a team...** This team is tasked with crossing a desert and climbing a mountain...
 - And part of this task is whoever is able to do all this task... must also die after reaching the the top
 - What is at stake... if this is accomplished...
 - You win great health, rewards and accolades... if you fail... you all die...
- **The Problem is that everyone on the team is too weak to walk, much less climb...**
 - Except for one. And the rules do not say everyone has to do it... it just has to be accomplished
 - So one man goes and does this on behalf of the rest... And then they all are considered victorious
 - Because they were on His team.... This is what Jesus did for us.

❖ Invitation

- No Religion makes sense of things like this...
 - Only Christianity answers the questions in our lives
- Have you been joined to Jesus by Faith... Do you know you have the Spirit
- Are you thankful for this work that Jesus has done for you...
- Are you ready to grow in your love for God and others?