

## Free From Condemnation

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

- **Ok... there are quite a few really important things to see within these two verses...**
- **I do believe... some of them should lead us to genuine worship today...**
  - When I say genuine worship I mean...
  - Hearts and minds that are truly bent toward affection for God
  - **That from within you... there is an overflow of true thankfulness**
    - There is an acknowledgment of what God has done in your life
    - There is a reality that God Almighty is great and has done great things...
    - That your heart can taste and see that He is good...
  - **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...
  - Like... when you're about to die from a bee sting, or a heart issue, or something...
  - And your pulse is down and stopped... and it looks like you're a goner...
  - Someone gives you a shot of Adrenaline... and BAM!!!! Your awake...
  - And your ready to go!...
- **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<sup>25</sup> 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?

- **To understand what is going on here in these verses...**
  - It is imperative to understand condemnation...
    - ◆ (We first need to see what we have been freed from)
  - **The Sense of the Word as it is used here is:**
    - *A legal decision of guilty in a criminal case; often with the ensuing punishment understood...*
      - ◆ So... there is a verdict of guilt plus a judgment to follow
  - **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

➤ **God Almighty is the Greatest of Authorities in all the Universe.**

▪ **It will not matter if people do not believe in Him...**

- They may think He is a fairy tale...
- They may believe in some religion different from the One True God
  - ◆ They will still be held accountable to God Almighty

▪ **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.
- Psalm 75:7 ...but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.
- John 5:27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

▪ **2) So... What you will see... is that what we do with Jesus... will make all the difference...**

- 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.
  - ◆ God’s wrath is His condemnation of the sinner

▪ **3) Man’s Sin Brings About Condemnation**

- Here... Paul is comparing the free gift by Jesus to the judgment following Adam’s sin
- Romans 5:16-19 <sup>16</sup> ... For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification... <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, ... <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners,
  - ◆ Notice that it is our sin that brings about condemnation

▪ **The Fires of Hell Will Be the Judgment of those who are Condemned**

- 2 Peter 2:4-10 <sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; <sup>5</sup> if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup> if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he **condemned** them to extinction, **making them an example** of what is going to happen to the ungodly;... <sup>9</sup> then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, **and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,**
  - ◆ Do you see... God’s authority to condemn...
  - ◆ Sodom and Gomorrah were burned to ashes... as an example
  - ◆ Of the kind of condemnation God will give to the ungodly...
- So... In Revelation 14:10-11 we see a description of what the place of judgment will be like
  - ◆ Here John is speaking of people who worship the beast... but if you continue to read...
    - You will see that all those who do not believe in Christ will be here...
    - Revelation 14:10-11 and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night
      - So... Condemnation is a very serious thing... it is very sobering...
      - it should wake up anyone who has not taken the free Gift of Grace offered to them

## ❖ 2) What Does “No Condemnation” Mean for Those in Christ Jesus?

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus
- First... I want you to see when this “no condemnation” begins...
  - Paul says... **“NOW”**
    - God has made this possible through His Son Jesus Christ...
      - ◆ So it happened at the moment Jesus died...
    - And it is already happening now for us...
      - We do not have to wait until some day in the future... or when we die
      - ◆ We get to experience a life of no condemnation
        - Right Now!... Every day... every second of every day
        - No Condemnation
- 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)
  - 1) We Have Been Set Free from Sin and Death (More on this Later)
    - 8:2 the law of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law of sin and death
  - 2) Righteousness Has Been Fulfilled in us
    - 8:4 the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us
  - 3) We Walk in the Spirit
    - 8:4 who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit
  - 4) The Spirit of God Dwells in you
    - 8:9 You however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit
  - 5) God Will Give Life to your Dying Body
    - 8:11 he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies
  - 6) You are Sons of God
    - 8:14 for all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God
  - 7) You are Heirs with Christ
    - 8:17 and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ
  - 8) We have the Spirit’s Help in Prayer
    - 8:26 the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words
  - 9) All Things Work for Your Good
    - 8:28 all things work together for the good, for those who love God and are called according to His purpose
  - 10) God is For You
    - 8:31 If God is for us, who can be against us?
  - 11) God will Give You All Good Things
    - 8:32 will he not also with him graciously give us all things
  - 12) We Have the Intercession of Christ
    - 8:34 Christ Jesus... who is at the right hand of God, who is interceding for us
  - 13) We have the Love of Christ
    - 8:35 who shall separate us from the love of Christ
  - 14) We are More than Conquerors
    - 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us
  - 15) Nothing Will Separate us from the Love of Christ

- 8:39 nothing else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - **All These Things are the benefit of having no condemnation...**
    - Plus one more that will lead us into our next point this morning.
    - And they are yours... and they are yours NOW... right now already...
    - There are other things throughout the Bible we could point to...
      - ◆ But here in chapter 8 we see all of these things are true for the person...
        - who has no condemnation
    - And the final one we see... goes hand in hand with “no condemnation”
  - **16) We are “In Christ”**
    - 8:2 set free in Christ Jesus
  - **Transition... From... what it means to have No Condemnation... to being in Christ Jesus**
    - **Because... being in Christ Jesus... means... no condemnation**
    - **John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**
      - Belief brings life and no condemnation... non-belief keeps a person under condemnation...
      - Believing... is the key to being in Christ Jesus
- ❖ **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...
      - Look back at John 3:18 “Whoever believes in him is not condemned”
  - **So... to be in Christ Jesus Means**
    - **1) You have put your faith in Him...**
      - This is more of the how do I find myself in Him...
      - But it is also true once you are in Him... Your faith is in Him...
    - **2) You are United with Christ...**
      - And this is something that God does... It is symbolized at your Baptism...
      - But, it is supernaturally done by God...
      - When He places his Spirit within you at the Moment of Faith
    - **3) His Work is Applied to Your Life**
      - In His Death... you die ... In His resurrection... you are raised
      - In His righteousness... you are righteous... In His inheritance... you inherit
    - **Colossians 2:12 <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.**
      - So... see how you are joined to Christ... And that it is “through Faith”
- ❖ **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...**
    - And we have one big question to ask along the way....
  - **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 <sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>8:1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>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...
  - **Here is our question:**
- **The Question: Why does he say he serves the law of sin, but then says he is set free from 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...
  - **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
- **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...
            - <sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit
  - **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:
        - <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.
        - We still have weaknesses... and here the Spirit prays for us...

- ◆ 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:**

▪ **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

▪ **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:**

▪ **"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...

➤ **Application: This is all so MASSIVELY important to You!**

▪ Because there is a real warning... and a way of examination...

▪ **He will say:**

- **8:13-14<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

▪ **He will also say:**

- **8:9<sup>9</sup> 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.**

❖ **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)**

▪ There is a new force... a new authority... it is the Holy Spirit... Jesus said of Him

▪ **John 6:63<sup>63</sup> It 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.' " <sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive**

❖ **Invitation:**

➤ So... you should feel the weight of what condemnation is...

➤ You should have experienced or want to experience the lifting of that weight

➤ And they way... to No Condemnation... is to be "in Christ"

➤ And to be "IN Christ" 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...