

Romans Session 96
Life in the Spirit 1
The Spirit Frees Us from Sin and Death
And Enables Us to fulfill the Law

Romans 8:1-4 (NASB)

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

² *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

³ *For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,*

⁴ *so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Although the Bible is a book offering the good news of salvation from sin, it is also a book that presents the bad news of condemnation for sin.

No single book or collection of writings on earth proclaim so completely and vividly the totally desperate situation of man apart from God.

The Bible reveals that, since the Fall, every human being has been born into the world with a sin nature. What David said of himself can be said of everyone:

Psalms 51:5 (NASB)

⁵ *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.*

Earlier in his letter to the Romans, Paul declared,

Romans 3:23 (NASB)

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Because of that universal and innate sinfulness, all unbelievers are under God's condemnation and are "**by nature children of wrath**" (*Eph 2:3*)

Man is not simply influenced by sin but is completely overpowered by it, and no one can escape that dominance by his own effort.

Sin is a defiling disease that corrupts every person, degrades every individual, disquiets every soul.

It steals peace and joy from the heart and replaces them with trouble and fear and pain.

Sin is implanted in every human life, and its deadly force brings a universal depravity that no man can cure.

Sin places men under the power of Satan, the ruler of the present world system.

John 12:31 (NASB)

³¹ *"Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.*

They are under the control of the Prince of the Power of the Air. And of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience

Ephesians 2:1-2 (NASB)

¹ *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*

² *in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.*

Paul went on to remind the Ephesian believers, all Christians were once a part of that evil system. (v3)
Jesus declared that Satan is the spiritual father of every unbeliever:

John 8:41-44 (NASB)

⁴¹ **"You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God."**

⁴² **Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me."**

⁴³ **"Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word."**

⁴⁴ **"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."**

We also read in the Bible that:

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

⁸ **the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.**

1 John 3:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ **By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.**

Because of sin all humankind is born in bondage to pain disease, and death.

Job said:

Job 5:7 (NASB)

⁷ **For man is born for trouble, As sparks fly upward.**

Because of sin, all the rest of creation was subjected to futility and groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ("**Rom. 8:20,22**")

Because of sin mankind are heirs of God's judgment;

Hebrews 10:26-27 (NASB)

²⁶ **For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,**

²⁷ **but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES.**

There are at least 3 reasons says Paul why God is justified in His condemnation of sinners.

1. He is justified because all men, though their lineage from Adam, share in the guilt of original sin and in the moral and spiritual depravity it produces
2. God is justified in condemning sinners because every person is born with an evil nature.
3. God is justified in condemning sinners because of the evil deeds their depraved natures inevitably produce.

Because of sin, the unregenerate have no future to look forward to except eternal damnation in hell.

Their destiny is the sinner's second death, the lake of fire, judgment without mercy, pain without remission.

The lost will be in a place of outer darkness, Jesus said, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "**Matt 8:12**"

As we have already said the Bible is an extremely condemnatory book, and the book of Romans is far from being an exception.

Paul has already established that the entire human race, Jews as well as Gentiles, is depraved and under sin.

He declares:

Romans 3:9-18 (NASB)

⁹ What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;

¹⁰ as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

¹¹ THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

¹² ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

¹³ "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";

¹⁴ "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";

¹⁵ "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,

¹⁶ DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,

¹⁷ AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."

¹⁸ "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."

That is the picture of man in sin and without God, but He then goes on to compare the man with God and what he can know and expect because of his relationship with Christ.

THE REALITY OF FREEDOM – NO CONDEMNATION

Romans 8:1a (NASB)

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

By the simple definition, **therefore** introduces a result, consequence or conclusion based on what has been established previously.

This is the result based on the first 7 chapters as he had taught them., the subject being the Justification by faith alone, made possible solely based on and by the power of God's Grace.

Chapter 8 marks a major change in the focus and flow of the epistle. At this point the apostle begins to delineate the marvelous results of Justification in the life of the believer.

He begins by explaining, as best as possible to finite minds, some of the cardinal truths of salvation. Such things as no condemnation, justification, substitution and sanctification.

God's provision of salvation came not through Christ's perfect teaching or through His perfect life but through His perfect sacrifice on the cross.

It is through Christ's death, not His life, that God provides the way of salvation.

Here Paul announces the marvelous good news that for Christians there will be **no condemnation, no sentencing, no punishment** for the sins that they have committed or will commit.

Jesus not only pays the debt of sin but cleanses him from all unrighteousness "**1John 1:9**"

Still more amazingly, He graciously imputes and imparts to each believer His own perfect Righteousness.

Hebrews 10:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Romans 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ *For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)

²¹ *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Philippians 3:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ *More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,*

⁹ *and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,*

Also Jesus shares His vast heavenly inheritance with those who come to Him in faith;

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,*

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)

¹¹ *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*

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¹¹ *also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,*

It is because of such immeasurable divine grace that Paul admonishes Christians to be continually giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light "**Col 1:12**"

Having been qualified by God the Father, we will never, under any circumstance, be subject to divine **condemnation**.

The truth that there can never be the eternal death penalty for believers is the foundation of the eight chapter of Romans.

As Paul says rhetorically near the end of the chapter;

Romans 8:31 (NASB)

³¹ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?*

Romans 8:33 (NASB)

³³ *Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;*

If the highest tribunal in the universe justifies us, who can declare us guilty?

It is extremely important to realize that deliverance from condemnation is not based on the least measure on any form of perfection achieved by the believer. He does not ever attain the total eradication of sin during his earthly life.

"chapter 7"

1 John 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

As we have learned the Christian's conflict with sin does not end until he goes to be with the Lord. Nevertheless, there is still no condemnation, because the penalty for all the failures of his life has been paid for in Christ and applied by grace.

It is also important to realize that deliverance from divine condemnation does not mean deliverance from divine discipline.

Hebrews 12:6 (NASB)

⁶ FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

Nor does our deliverance from God's condemnation mean escape from our accountability to Him.

Galatians 6:7 (NASB)

⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap

So, we are free, and the reality is that we are delivered from condemnation. There will be no condemnation.

Next study we will take the reason for freedom, which is Justification.