

Romans 7:24–8:1

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

There Is Therefore Now No Condemnation

Romans 8:1

In Romans 7, Paul wrote about the ongoing struggle in our hearts with sin. This is no small conflict in the breasts of those who genuinely wish to obey God and to progress in holiness. Even a saint of the stature of Charles Spurgeon wrote: "The man who never strives against the sin which dwells in him, who indeed is not conscious of any sin to strive against, that is the man who may begin to question whether he knows anything at all about the spiritual life." Our text for today says, "***There is therefore now no condemnation in Christ Jesus.***"

We need to know (1) that our salvation is right now, even while the battle is raging in our hearts and lives. (2) Second, we must understand why we are not condemned.

I. No Condemnation Now

II. No Condemnation Because

I. No Condemnation Now

A. We begin our study with an important observation. The chapter division here is not in the original and thus is not inspired. Spurgeon, in his introduction to his sermon on this text, wrote: "We once heard a friend say, 'I have gotten out of the seventh of Romans and into the eighth.' Nonsense! There is no getting out of one into the other, for they are one. . . I thank God with all my heart that since my conversion I have never known what it is to be out of the seventh of Romans, nor out of the eighth either: the whole passage had been solid truth to my experience. I have struggled against inward sin, and rejoiced in complete justification at the same time." We will have progressive victory as we walk in the Spirit and grow strong in the Lord. However, complete victory will not happen until we "***shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is.***"

B. Notice, first, when this declaration is effective. "***There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.***" The "now" is important.

1. The now is important because it tells us some people are right now not under condemnation. While some are condemned, if we are in Christ we are at this very moment safe from condemnation.

2. When we are at war with our indwelling sin, Satan takes every opportunity to make us see our sin, lose sight of God's grace, and feel like we are most deserving of

condemnation. There is "now," at this very moment, no condemnation for us because we are in Christ Jesus. What a blessing this is. What a truth. It should make us sing.

II. No Condemnation Because

A. Why is there now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus? The reality is found in the "therefore."

B. The "therefore" in Romans 8:1 reaches back to the beginning of Paul's discussion of justification in **Romans 3:24-25**. ***"Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness."*** We can be declared righteous not by keeping the Law but through faith in Christ.

C. It includes the point of chapter four. ***"For what does the Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness."*** (Romans 4:3-5)

D. He who declares us righteous through faith alone does not leave us in our ungodly state. He who justifies us works in us to sanctify us, conforming us into the image of His Son. Before we could understand all of this, we needed to be exposed to the fact of our union with Christ. At the end of chapter 5, Paul told us we were born in union with Adam, and because of Adam's sin we are all condemned. By grace through faith, we were put in Christ and through Christ we were made alive. ***"For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many."*** (Romans 5:15)

E. Paul then used the believer's union with Jesus Christ to explain how sanctification is possible. He showed us how in Christ we were crucified. This is why we do not have to serve sin. We can work together with God the Holy Spirit to overcome our sin and serve God. ***"For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts."*** (Romans 6:10-12)

F. Finally, in chapter 7, the Apostle emphasized the Law is good, and that we will never have total victory over sin. When we reach the point in our ongoing battle with indwelling sin that we cry out, "O wretched man that I am," we are convinced that Christ would not save evil people like us. This is where this reality is underlined for us. ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."***

How do we know we are in Christ?

Do you ***"confess Jesus as Lord with your mouth and believe in your heart that God raised Christ from the dead?"*** (Romans 10:9) We are in Christ if our trust is in Him.

We might say, I already believe. I know firsthand the war with sin which Paul wrote about. The great comfort, the tremendous experience, is that there is no condemnation we have to fear.

This chapter begins with no condemnation and finishes with the truth that in Christ there is no separation from God's love for us in Christ Jesus.

Does this truth inform our praise?

Does it drive us to our knees in thankfulness?

Does it motivate us to love Him who so much loved us?

Does it make us live for Him Who died for us?

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