

*Morning Sermon September 27, 2015*  
*“How Should We HEAR the Words -*  
*THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION?”*  
*Romans 8:1*

*We are instructed by Jesus to be careful HOW we hear?*  
*Listening to a sermon is as important as preaching one! I am not*  
*the only one here who has a job to do on Sundays ... We are all*  
*called to “take heed” how we hear? I am not active preaching*  
*while you are passively hearing, no, God’s people are called to be*  
*active HEARERS of God’s Word!*

<sup>18</sup> **"Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." (Luke 8:18 NKJ)**

*Jesus tells us “why” we should take heed how we hear:*

- 1. If we have, and hear rightly, we will be given MORE, blessed MORE!*
- 2. If we do not have, and neglect hearing, or hear in a wrong way, what we might have will be taken away!*

*How should we hear? –*

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Romans 8:1** *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. (Romans 8:1 NKJ)*

*I. Hear these words as judged, condemned, guilty, lost sinners, who live in a lost, condemned and guilty world!*

- 1. We need to hear these words, like people who NEED to hear these words; the Bible tells us we are guilty, condemned –*

<sup>18</sup> **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, (Romans 1:18 NKJ)**

<sup>10</sup> **As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; <sup>11</sup> There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (Romans 3:10-11 NKJ)**

<sup>19</sup> **Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (Romans 3:19 NKJ)**

*The whole world, all the world, stands guilty before God!*

*We are on death row and we have been on death row since Genesis 3 and Genesis 5, the first genealogy is filled with these words – “and he died” (Genesis 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27 & 31 NKJ)*

<sup>23</sup> **For the wages of sin (what we deserve) is death (Romans 6:23 NKJ)**

<sup>27</sup> **And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrews 9:27 NKJ)**

*2. The entire universe has a CONDEMNED sign hanging on it –*  
<sup>10</sup> **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10 NKJ)**

*When we hear these words “No condemnation” as those who are rightly condemned we appreciate them more.*

*3. Lies mask and muffle the impact of these words:*

- A. Evolution tells us death is just the natural end of life, there is no moral element in it, no condemnation that is part of it, and such people who believe evolution tend to doubt all of Scripture.*
- B. Many others casually believe everyone is going to Heaven, they believe in a general forgiveness of God, they see no need for listening to these words, carefully –*
- C. Many also who do not read or listen to the Word, judge God by their reading of the World --- they are always asking, why this? Why suffering? They think God’s job is to make everyone comfortable; God’s job is to make every sinner’s life easy!*

*Why is there suffering in this world? Because the world is under God’s wrath and curse! God is not happy with us, He is angry at us! He is RIGHT to be angry with us!*

<sup>39</sup> **Why should a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? <sup>40</sup> Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD; (Lamentations 3:39-40 NKJ)**

II. *Hear these words in their proper, limiting context:*  
*“NO CONDEMNATION” applies only to - to those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1 NKJ)*

1. *Romans 5, spoke about this, all were in Adam, connected to him by birth, he was / is our federal head and in him we all died*

–  
<sup>12</sup> **Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned— (Romans 5:12 NKJ)**

2. *When we are “in Christ Jesus” one with Him, and only when we are one with Him, when HE is our Federal Head and LORD, we have salvation from the condemnation due the rest of the world –*

<sup>12</sup> **"Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12 NKJ)**

<sup>6</sup> **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)**

**For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:19 NKJ)**

III. *Hear these words as encouragement, as an emphatic motivation for walking with God in dependence upon His Holy Spirit –*

**who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1 NKJ)**

*The truth is, if we have a vital connection with Christ, we will have the Holy Spirit; we will walk according to the Holy Spirit!*

*Yet, those who have the Holy Spirit seek Him, they pray for His empowering presence every day –*

<sup>9</sup> **"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorp-**

ion? <sup>13</sup> **"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:9-13 NKJ)**

*Even if we have the Holy Spirit in some sense automatically with Christ, we should seek to filled with Him, daily, even CONSTANTLY; this is how we walk with God –*

<sup>15</sup> **See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, <sup>16</sup> redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Ephesians 5:15-20 NKJ)**

IV. *Hear these words “therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION” in light of the great historical event which they reference; Christ’s death on the cross, which paid the penalty for our sins –*

<sup>4</sup> **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. (Hebrews 10:4 NKJ)**

*The blood of bulls, goats, lambs, birds never did take away any sin; they never took away condemnation ...*

*What the lambs, bulls and goats of the Old Testament did was point to Jesus, the ultimate Lamb of God, Who did take away the sins of the world –*

**The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NKJ)**

*The “Now” of Romans 8:1 which promises “no condemnation” is the now of Jesus’ death on the cross, which paid the penalty due our sins!*

<sup>30</sup> **So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. (John 19:30 NKJ)**  
*Only when Jesus said, it is finished, was the debt fully paid, but now that He has finished paying the debt, there is NOW NO CONDEMNATION! This is why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper! We live in this sweet new age, the age of “No Condemnation” because of Jesus Christ!*

*Arnold A. Brevick*