

No Condemnation

Romans 8:1-4

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FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 8:1-4 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.** (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) **That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

The Promise of The Gospel

FOCAL Romans 8:1 [There is] therefore **now no condemnation**¹ to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

No condemnation. God has promised all those that are *in Christ by faith* that they shall not be condemned. Listen Beloved, and rejoice with me if this is true for you:

Supporting John 3:17-18 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) **He that believeth on him is not condemned**²: ...

- 1 2631 katakrima kat-ak'-ree-mah from 2632; an adverse sentence (the verdict):--condemnation. see GREEK for 2632, Morphology: N-NSN Part of Speech: Noun Case: Nominative Number: Singular Gender: Neuter & 3762 oudeis oo-dice', including feminine oudemia oo-dem-ee'-ah, and neuter ouden oo-den' from 3761 and 1520; not even one (man, woman or thing), i.e. none, nobody, nothing:--any (man), aught, man, neither any (thing), never (man), no (man), none (+ of these things), not (any, at all, -thing), nought.
- 2 Strongs: G2919, 2919 krino kree'-no, properly, to distinguish, i.e. decide (mentally or judicially); by implication, to try, condemn, punish:--avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the)

He that **believeth on Him is not condemned**. You can never be condemned before the Great White Throne of God if you have trusted your soul into His hands. Jesus Christ took all of your condemnation on Himself on that Cross. **No condemnation** for you. The Greek text literally states “**no, not one judgment against you**”. The Lord has placed all condemnation on Jesus *for your sake*.

My heart swells with gratitude to God when I think of this glorious Grace we who believe stand in. He has promised us that Christ has bore our sin on Himself. Jesus took on Himself *two condemnations* for you and for me. There was the condemnation of our *willful sin against the Law of God*. We do not need to blame Adam for our sinful estate. Yes, Adam sinned, and yes, Adam brought sin on all of his children. But we, just as sure as Adam, know the Law of God and willfully violated it. We were breakers of God's Law, willfully and without care prior to our salvation. Then when we broke God's Law we, like Adam of old, *made fig leaves to cover our nakedness*. We used our own filthy righteousness

Supporting Isaiah 64:6 But **we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.**

Our tattered leaves, our ragged clothing. We stood before God filthy and proclaimed ourselves clean by our own hands. Then one day the Lord came into our private place, came into the Garden that we had fouled. We made excuses, like Adam of old, but our Father would

law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think. Morphology: V-PPI-3S, Tense: Present Voice: Passive Mood: Indicative Person: third Number: Singular

not leave us alone. We thought ourselves clean and pointed to the tatters of the fig leaves, and our Father showed us that our sin still showed through our presumed righteousness.

Jesus Christ had to die for our sins. He had to be the covering, the Lamb of God Who alone could take away our sin. Jesus not only removed our sin, He showed us that it is His righteousness we must stand in. Our self righteousnesses, our attempts at keeping the Law apart from Christ are as foolish as Adam standing in fig leaves. The Blood had to be shed. God had to make a way, a glorious way, else we would not be saved.

FOCAL Romans 8:1 [There is] therefore **now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

There is **now – right now – no condemnation to you if you are in Christ Jesus**. Note how this text is worded. God makes no mistakes in His Word, no confusion in order or in the text. **No condemnation**. The Greek text literally says **no, not even one**. Christ has paid it all if you have believed in Him. Notice our Master is not called here **Jesus Christ** but **Christ Jesus**. Are you **in Christ Jesus**? When His Name is placed in this order in the Scripture, His function as *Messiah and Savior* is being emphasized. He is **The Messiah, God with us**. Are you **in the Messiah, God with us**? Have you bowed the knee to Him, or do you still arrogantly stand on your own righteousness, your own fig leaves? Have you knelt before Him, recognizing Him as Lord God and the only means by which you will get to Heaven? **In Christ Jesus** is found forty times in the Authorized Version – *twice in*

our focal text for today. It's first use is in:

Supporting Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

We have redemption from eternal punishment in **Christ Jesus**. His Blood was shed, He was forsaken, He was punished in your place and in mine. He took our sin and our righteousnesses on Himself as He hung on that tree. If you are **in Christ Jesus**, you have been redeemed from judgment and hellfire. Our focal text tells us:

FOCAL Romans 8:2-3 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh ...

Because you are **in Christ Jesus** you have been freed from the **Law of sin and of death**. You have been removed from that code and placed under the **Law of the Spirit of Life**. The Christian is not Lawless, but is under *another Law*. The Holy Spirit Who lives inside of you leads you to love and to be like Jesus. God is reproducing Christ in you, if you are **in Christ Jesus**. You who are truly Christians are supernatural beings designed to serve the Savior. The Christian is not just a follower of written Law. The Christian is **in Christ Jesus, in the Messiah Who is God with us**. God works through us because He is remaking us. We are told in another place:

Supporting 2 Corinthians 3:3-4 Forasmuch as ye are

manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. (4) And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward ...

If you are Christians, then you are creatures created by **Christ Jesus**. He died for you, He rose again for you. He took your sin, your violations of God's Law and your self righteousness on Himself. He stood in the place of judgment for you, and now because you are **in Christ Jesus** your life is new.

The Permanence of The Gospel

FOCAL Romans 8:1-3 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

How permanent is this miracle of salvation? Can a person lose his salvation, or walk away from it? Has any bird ever made by God suddenly decided that it was a snake, and began to crawl on the ground on its belly? Have you ever seen a lion say "moo", and begin to eat grass and give milk? Can a dog turn cat, and a cat turn dog? That which God has made stays made, but that which God has made *does what He has made it to do*. Our text tells us:

FOCAL Romans 8:2-3 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free³ from the law of sin and death. (3) For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The Christian is someone who has been *freed from one Law because another Law now rules him*. The Law of God **was weak** – not in itself, mind you, for the Scripture tells us that God's Law

Supporting Romans 7:12-13 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. (13) Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

There is nothing wrong with the Law of God – the wrong was in us. The Law of God was **weak through the flesh**. We could never keep it no matter how hard we tried. Perfect Eve was told by Satan:

Supporting Genesis 3:4-5 Ye shall not surely die: (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Though she and Adam were in a perfect state, a sinless state, *they chose to disobey the Law*. Why? Because the

3 Strong's: G1659, 1659 eleutheroo el-yoo-ther-o'-o from 1658; to liberate, i.e. (figuratively) to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability):--deliver, make free. see GREEK for 1658 Morphology: V-AAI-3S Tense: Aorist Voice: Active Mood: Indicative Person: third Number: Singular

Law of God stands *outside the flesh*. The Law of the Spirit however *is written on the heart*. God partners with the Christian, lives inside the Christian, works in the Christian to make us like Jesus. The **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free**. The word “free” in our text is the Greek **eleutheroo**, which means *to be liberated or delivered from*. You were liberated from the Law of God so that you could live by the Law of the Spirit. You are **new creatures in Christ**. You are no longer judged by the Law of God as offenders, but you are now in a *family relationship with God*. Born again, you serve Him because you are born again. Made alive, you serve God *because you are made alive*. Jesus said:

Supporting John 14:19 ... because I live, ye shall live also.

When does a Christian lose his salvation? When is a Christian *condemned to hell*? Never, never, never! Jesus said “**because I live, you shall live also**”. He has said “**I will never leave thee nor forsake thee**” (**Hebrews 13:5**). The Lord did not qualify these statements with a time limit. If you are **in Christ Jesus** then He has bound Himself to you. **C.H. Spurgeon** said⁴:

“This union with Christ is often mentioned in Scripture under the form of a marriage, but it is also described under other symbols: we are one with Christ as a branch is one with the vine, as a stone is one with the foundation, and especially as a member of the body is one with the head. Now it is not possible if I am a member of Christ that I should be under

4 IN CHRIST NO CONDEMNATION. NO. 1917 A SERMON DELIVERED ON LORD'S-DAY MORNING, AUGUST 29TH, 1886, BY C. H. SPURGEON, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

condemnation until he is condemned. Is my head acquitted? Then my hand is acquitted. So long as a man's head is above water you cannot drown his feet; and as long as Christ, the Head of the mystical body, rises above the torrent of condemnation, there is no condemning even the least and feeblest member of his body."

The serpent may say, "You must maintain your salvation, or else you will lose it. Salvation is not what Jesus Christ has done for you alone, but it is what You (you god, you) do PLUS what Jesus did. Disbelieve God, reject that which He has said. Some believe that they may live as they want and die in their sin. They have heard the serpent's gospel and have heard him whisper "Yea, hath God said?" Some believe that this life is all there is, and that once you die there is no other life. Dying you are now dead. "Yea, hath God said?" Yet others have listen to the Tempter say, "You have tomorrow. If you die apart from Christ, "God is love". He will allow you to remain in purgatory for a while, then you will drift into Heaven. "Yea, hath God said?" The devil would have us believe in a general amnesty, yet this is not what God has promised. If you have not believed on Jesus, not repented of your old way of life and turned to Him, then you are **now condemned**. The Bible says:

Supporting John 3:18 ... but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

The unbeliever is **now condemned**. God has already made His judgment. If that person, unbelieving, dies in his or her sins, there will be a judgment before God –

but that judgment is more for open proclamation than anything else. The Bible says that the **unbeliever is condemned already**. Yet the believer, a **new creature by the Spirit of God**, will **never be condemned**. No condemnation – not now, not ever! Hell is a *place of death* but you, O Christian, are made alive by Christ. Life does not belong in a place of death. We are His - forever!

The Purpose Of The Gospel

FOCAL Read Responsively Romans 8:1, 4 [There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ... (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

There is a distinct *purpose for each and every recipient of the Gospel*. God is in you if you are in Christ. You are called of God to **walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. This is repeated *twice* in our focal text to emphasize it. The Christian saved does not cease to perform. The Christian saved *ceases to perform in the flesh*, ceases to try and satisfy sin. In the previous chapter the Apostle wrote:

Supporting Romans 7:18-24 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. (19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. (20) Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (21) I find then a law,

that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

What is the *fundamental difference* between the Christian and the non-Christian? The fundamental difference is that the Christian **does not walk after the flesh, but walks after the Spirit**. The unbeliever chases the flesh, minimizes sin, thinks nothing of offending God and His righteousness. The world of the unsaved are under condemnation because:

Supporting John 3:19 that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Here's your fundamental difference. The unbeliever lives with the purpose of satisfying self. God has done no work in the unbeliever's heart. The Law stands outside condemning the unbeliever, and the unbeliever – seeing that Law – believes that God will look the other way. The unbeliever does not know that **the wages of sin is death**. The unbeliever does not know that he is:

Supporting Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Judgment is coming, and the unbeliever ignores it. He is

walking the train rails, impervious to the howl of that long black train bear down on him. The believer when he sins is *convicted by the Spirit of God Who has changed him*. The Christian, when he or she sins, sees the sin and cries out “**o wretched man that I am, who shall save me from the body of this death?**” The Christian does not wallow in the pigpen of sin, reveling in the mud and stink. No, the Christian loves his Lord, loves his Heavenly Father, and wants to be like his Big Brother Jesus.

Yes the Christian fails the Lord at times, yet we are works in progress. We **walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. The Bible says that Christ Jesus:

Supporting Galatians 1:4 Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver⁵ us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

You have been **plucked out of this present evil world**. You no longer live to sin, you live to be like Jesus. You **walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. God is in you, dear Christian, and wants to work through your life. You have a purpose, a calling to walk like Jesus, to be like Jesus, to love like Jesus.

How sad that so many have been deceived by the devil in believing that the Christian is made so in order that he more freely sin. The professor in sexual sin says, “God made me this way. He has saved me so that I can freely

5 Strong's: G1807, 1807 exaireo ex-ahee-reh'-o, from 1537 and 138; actively, to tear out; middle voice, to select; figuratively, to release:--deliver, pluck out, rescue. see GREEK for 1537 see GREEK for 138, Morphology: V-2AMS-3S Tense: second Aorist, Voice: Middle, Mood: Subjunctive, Person: third, Number: Singular

commit fornication and adultery”. The professor in addictive sin says, “God made me this way. He has given me alcohol and drugs so that I can use them. He has saved me and covers my sin – my willful sin – with His hand”. The professor in sins of the tongue says, “God made me this way. He has given me a tongue to lash others with. I have been made a Judge in Israel, and in my perfection I hold His servants accountable to me”. The *professor in sin* will always point to God and seek justification for his or her sin. The Christian will never do this. Sinning, the Christian recognizes his sin and despises it. The Christian, **walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh**, hates that sin within him. He confesses sin when it comes crawling, like a spider, into his life. He turns from sin and toward Christ in love toward God, knowing himself to be imperfect, but knowing that

Supporting Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God is working in you, if you are saved. God is leading you, training you, and making you into what He wants you to be. Just as Jesus despised sin so are you, dear Christian, led from sin. And if you, dear one, profess to know Him and yet willfully and without conscience engage in sin – then you may not not be saved. Those who are saved, though they may stumble, will never fall. Those who are saved recognize their sin, confess their sin, then follow their Master where ever He leads them. **“where He leads me I will follow”**. Is this what you believe and act on, or do you follow after the flesh? Are you walking after the Spirit or after the flesh? Judge

yourselves, and turn to Him if you have not. Go with Him all the way!

May God touch your hearts with these words.