

71. The Book of Romans 8:1

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

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Tonight, we come to the greatest chapter in the greatest book in the Bible!

Some have described the Book of Romans as a doctrinal '*Mt. Everest*' that rises out of and towers over the rest of Scripture.

If that is true, then Chapter 8 represents the final ascent to the summit!

By the time we reach the end of this chapter we will be standing atop the greatest mountain of spiritual truth God has ever given to man.

- From that vantage point we will be able to clearly see the difference between those who are '*in Adam*' and those who are '*in Christ*.'
- Between the '*children of wrath*' and the '*children of promise*.'
- Between those who are '*earth-dwellers*' and those who are '*seated with Christ in heavenly places*.'

As I said, as we come to Chapter 8, we come to the final ascent of this Everest of spiritual truth.

Paul is climbing higher and higher with every point he is making until he reaches the summit and cries in victory—"*We are more than conquerors through Christ!!*"

Let me just review again quickly:

I. **Condemnation**—Romans 1:18-3:20

II. **Justification**—Romans 3:21-5:21

III. **Sanctification**—Romans 6:1-8:39

Each of the chapters in this 3rd major section of Romans—is built around a key word:

- The key word in Chapter 6 is ***Sin***—it appears 17 times.
- In Chapter 7 the key word is ***Law***—it appears 19 times.
- In Chapter 8, the key word is ***Spirit***—used 23 times—more than any other chapter in the Bible.

We've already studied Chapters 6 and 7—which now brings us to Chapter 8.

In the past there were a good number of Bible teachers who taught that Romans 7 wasn't important for Christians to read and know because it dealt with Paul's struggles with sin *before* he got saved—and so, they jumped over it and got right into Chapter 8.

However, I personally believe that what we have in Romans 7 isn't Paul's struggle with sin *before* he got saved—but his struggles with sin as a *believer*. I don't think an unbeliever wrestles with sin as Paul describes in Chapter 7—unbelievers are dead in trespasses and sins—and dead men don't wrestle!

I further believe that it was what Paul learned over time in his struggles with the flesh (and recorded in Chapter 7)—that led to the victorious truth he lays out in Chapter 8. Which means—you can't sidestep Romans 7 to get to Chapter 8—because Chapter 7 is the *corridor* that leads to Chapter 8 and ultimately to victory!

Let's compare the two for a minute.

Romans 7 is a chapter of defeat and ends with a cry of defeat—***“O wretched man that I am!”*** Yet when we 'turn the page' and come to Romans 8—we find a chapter of victory that ends with a shout of victory—***“We are more than conquerors...!”***

- You say, *“What happened? How did Paul go from miserable failure to glorious conqueror so quickly?”*

Well, in Chapter 7 Paul uses the personal pronouns ***“I”*** and ***“me”***—46 times. In other words, the focus of Chapter 7 is *self*—it was Paul's testimony of when he tried to defeat sin in his life through his own strength, raw determination, and hard work.

So, what we have in Romans 7 is Paul addressing the utter failure of trying to use religion (the law) as a way of conquering over his fallen sinful nature! That's why it is a chapter of defeat ending with a cry of defeat—***“O wretched man that I am!”***

But in Chapter 8 (a tremendously uplifting and victorious chapter),
the key word is ***Spirit***—as in ***Holy Spirit!***

The word *Spirit* is used 23 times in Romans 8—more than in any other chapter in the Bible! That's why it's a chapter of victory that ends with a shout of victory—***“We are more than conquerors*** (thru our relationship with Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit).”

When it comes to living the Christian life, we need God's power or else defeat, and frustration will beat the life out of us and cause us to want to give up.

Listen to what Peter says: *“...His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue...”* (2 Peter 1:3 NKJV)

The word 'power' is the Greek word *dunamis*—the same word we get the English words *'dynamite'* and *'dynamic'* from—which is the same Greek word used in Romans 1:16 and Acts 1:8—

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The same power that *saved* us, is the same power that *equips* us for service—but also is the divine power we need for living the Christian life on a daily basis! In other words, it is this power that gives us total victory over our fallen sinful nature and makes us all that God wants us to be—“**more than conquerors.**” (*Romans 8:37*)

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

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.**

The chapter starts out with the blessed and important statement—“**There is therefore now no condemnation...**”

The ‘**therefore**’ takes us back to what Paul has just finished saying in Chapter 7—

Romans 7:22–24 (NKJV)

²² For I delight in the law of God according to 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 will deliver me from this body of death?

Legalism (Chapter 7) **always leads to condemnation**—and yet Paul doesn’t leave us in despair—

Romans 7:24–25 (NKJV)

²⁴ ...Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ **I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!...**

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ **There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...**

Chapter 8 begins with ‘**No Condemnation**’ (verse 1) and ends with ‘**No Separation**’ (verse 39)—and in between is a chapter that deals with victory in the Christian life—but **victory rooted in security**.

To properly set the stage for this message—we need to understand that Scripture tells us that everyone born into the world falls into one universal category—“*children of wrath.*” (Ephesians 2:3) In other words, having been born physically into this world, we were born descendants of Adam.

Since the Garden of Eden, the family of Adam has carried a blood curse upon it because of the fall—a curse that gets passed along to all who are born into it. As such we are all under *condemnation*, we are all objects of God’s *wrath* and the inescapable consequence is as the Bible declares—“*in Adam all die.*” (1 Corinthians 15:22)

Many people have gotten a distorted perception of what’s going on regarding God—and his dealings with man. They see God as the enemy who is out to get them, looking for any reason to condemn them and throw them into hell—but nothing is farther from the truth!

**The truth is—God loves them and is trying to *rescue* them
from the curse and consequence of Adam’s sin.**

John 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

John 3:18, 36 (NKJV)

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God...

³⁶ He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation...*

That’s an important little word because it speaks about the present—not about yesterday or last week or last year—***but now!***

Whenever you blow it and feel beat up and discouraged because of your sin and you’re finding it hard to even come to God again to ask for forgiveness—at whatever moment in life, you find yourself, no matter how you’ve failed and fallen—the devil is telling you “*now you are condemned*”—but God is telling you:

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

¹ *There is therefore now no condemnation...*

He doesn’t say, “**There is therefore now no...sin...weakness...failures...difficulties...losing your temper** when some guy cuts you off. It says there is “**no condemnation.**” In other words, the sin will still be there in the sense that we won’t be sinless until we’re glorified—but the condemnation is gone!

No matter how much you struggle and stumble there is still no condemnation because you are in Christ and God will never disown you!

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)

⁵ ...For He Himself has said, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*”

The Greek word for **condemnation** is ‘katakrima’ (*kata*=against and *krima*=a judgment)—which means “*to pronounce a judgment against someone.*”

The word appears only in the book of Romans—once right here and also in 5:16, 18.

One commentator said—

“Although it relates to the sentencing for a crime, its primary focus is not so much on the verdict as on the penalty that the verdict demands.”

As Paul has already declared—the penalty, or **condemnation**, for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

But here, Paul declares the good news that for Christians there will be **no condemnation**—in other words, no guilty verdict, no sentencing no punishment for the sins we *have* committed or *will ever* commit.

One author commented on this—

*“The word **no** is not the simple negative ‘ou’ but the compound and therefore much stronger negative ‘oude.’ Secondly, it appears at the beginning of the sentence, which intensifies it even further. The idea is—‘there is therefore nothing or no one that can ever, ever at any time condemn you.’”*

John 5:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Jude 24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy..

The truth that there will never be the eternal death penalty for believers—is the foundation of Chapter 9 of the Book of Romans.

As Paul asks rhetorically near the end of the chapter, **“If God is for us, who can be against us?”** (verse 31); And again in verse 33, **“Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.”**

If the highest Judge in the highest court in the universe *justifies* us—who can declare us guilty and condemn us to eternal punishment?

- *“How could God declare us just and no longer guilty?”*

Because we have received Jesus as our substitute, His blood paid the debt we owed God for our sins and placed us in Christ—and at that moment, God declared us **‘justified.’**

Warren Wiersbe—

*“In justification, God declares the believing sinner righteous. Before the sinner trusts Christ, he stands **GUILTY** before God; but the moment he trusts Christ, he is declared **‘NOT GUILTY’** and he can never be called **‘GUILTY’** again! Justification is not simply “forgiveness,” because a person could be forgiven and then go out and sin and become guilty again. Once you have been “justified by faith” you can never be held guilty before God.*

Justification is also different from a “pardon,” because a pardoned criminal still has a record. When the sinner is justified by faith, his past sins are remembered against him no more, and God no longer puts his sins on record (see Psalm 32:1–2; Romans 4:1–8).”

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

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.**

Some of your Bibles may not have the last part of this verse—or if you do, your Bible may have a footnote saying, *“Not contained in the best manuscripts.”* Many commentators believe that it shouldn’t be included because they feel it wrongly adds a stipulation, a human work to Paul’s statement of grace.

But Paul isn’t *qualifying* his statement (that there is no condemnation for Christians—but only those who are not carnal Christians)—**Paul is not qualifying his statement he is amplifying it.**

Don't make the mistake that many have made as they read Romans 8—that Paul is comparing *carnal* Christians with *spiritual* (mature) Christians.

They believe Paul is teaching that *carnal* Christians (i.e., 'those who are carnally minded') are going to hell (verse 6)—whereas *spiritual* Christians (i.e., 'those who are spiritually minded') are those who will not be condemned to hell.

- But that would make our salvation totally dependent upon *our* faithfulness and base it on works and not on grace—however, the language and the grammar of this chapter in the Greek does not support that interpretation at all!
- Paul is not contrasting *carnal* Christians with *spiritual* Christians—he is contrasting believers with unbelievers.

➤ *Are there carnal Christians?*

Of course, and Paul addresses them in 1 Corinthians Chapter 3—but the comparison here in Romans 8 is between those who are in Adam and those who are in Christ.

Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

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

Here and throughout this chapter, Paul is describing the difference between the Christian and non-Christian—between the saved and the unsaved.

The Christian habitually follows after the Spirit—
whereas the unbeliever habitually follows after the flesh.

➤ *Does that mean that we as Christians never get mad in traffic, or wrestle with sinful thoughts...?*

No, but it does mean that a dramatic change has taken place in us because we're in Christ.

We are now those whose lives are inclined toward the direction of the Spirit—that is the direction of our life now—therefore there is now no condemnation, no possibility of judgment because we are in Christ.

Before we were in Christ our lives were habitually inclined toward the flesh and were by nature children of wrath.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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