

A Revolutionary Freedom ***Romans 8:1 - 4***

¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8 begins with thirteen words of freedom and emancipation for the Christian. Paul wrote triumphantly, “*therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*” In place of bondage, Christ has set His people free. David Jeremiah writes, “*different people have their own definitions of freedom—freedom from poverty, freedom from tyranny, freedom from authority, freedom from worry and fear. But the most basic freedom of all is freedom from the penalty, power and practice of sin.*”

Those who know and live in Christ know that freedom first hand. All of chapter eight is in fact a manifesto of freedom for the Christian. And that freedom is expressed and enjoyed through Christ. Let’s explore some of the realities expressed in the first four verses of Romans...

- 1. Condemnation for sin has been lifted and removed.**
- 2. Condemnation has been actively banished...past, present and future.**
- 3. The dividing line for freedom is Christ. Those “in” Christ are free. And those “outside” of Christ are still under the weight of their sin and God’s judgment upon them.**
- 4. Freedom comes through Christ and Christ alone.**
- 5. The law was powerless to make us free. The law could reveal the reality of sin to us. But it could not make us free.**
- 6. The condemnation that belonged upon us was placed upon the Son of God who became our sin offering.**
- 7. We fulfill God’s requirements for righteousness through our faith in Jesus. The righteousness of Jesus has become our righteousness through our faith in the person and work of Christ.**

John MacArthur wrote that “*it is extremely important to realize that deliverance from condemnation is not based in the least measure on any form of perfection achieved by the believer. He does not attain the total eradication of sin during his earthly life. 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 in Christ and covered by grace."

We often fail to appreciate the realities of sin in our lives and the world. While sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, it has worked its way through the whole world person by person. Like a rampaging virus or infection, sin has relentlessly attacked the population of the world from the Garden of Eden until now. David Jeremiah noted that sin is congenital (passed along generations), universal (present in all), natural (the common inclination of us all), familial (present in every family that has ever existed), fearful (encourages and solicits the judgment of God) and fatal (sin's wages are always death).

We often have to appreciate the severity of sin and the depth of our lostness before we begin to appreciate and enjoy the power of freedom from condemnation. Rather than being sin-filled, as new creatures in Christ, we are now Spirit-filled. We are led and empowered by the Holy Spirit and His presence in our lives.

Jesus said in John 10:10 that He came so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Jesus also came to set the captives free (Isaiah 61:1-2). We now live in the joy of freedom's reality and shadow.

Applications . . .

1. Memorize these powerful thirteen words in Romans 8:1 . . .
"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!"
2. Identify any places in your life where you feel the bondage of sin and places that do not honor God. Surrender them now to the Lord.
3. Look up five other verses in the Bible that use the word freedom. How do those verses relate to Romans 8?
4. Read Jesus' explanation of the "new birth" in John 3:1-21. How would you explain this new birth to another person?