

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART III

Sermon Title: Week 1, No Condemnation!

Principal Scripture: Romans 8:1-4 Date: September 30, 2018

- **TODAY, starting Romans part 3. CHAPTER 8. Many biblical scholars have considered Romans 8 as perhaps the most important single chapter in the NT.**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... READ FROM BIBLE

‡ **Therefore...**

- **In one sense, ALL OF ROMANS. Story of the Gospel. Righteousness of GOD given to US, that is received and experience by FAITH.**
- **Story of God's revelation of himself**
- **Reality of sin, that we come into this world separated from God, spiritually dead, and there is NOTHING we can do about it**
- **BUT THEN, we hit Romans 3:21... see that we are justified. Redeemed. Atonement. FULLY FORGIVEN.**
- **As we move into chapter 5.. We are not only forgiven, we enter into God's GRACE, we have left family of Adam, and entered family of Jesus**
- **We continued into Chapter 6- we have died to sin, and we are ALIVE TO GOD in Jesus Christ**
- **THEN, into chapter 7- now only did we die to SIN, but we have died to the LAW as a motivation for how we live- BECAUSE the only thing the law can do is REVEAL our sin- it has no power to do anything about our problem: LAW ONLY CONDEMNS. THIS LED TO LAST WEEK... PAUL lays out, with stark honesty, the reality we often find ourselves in.**
- **WE KNOW what is right.... We know the goodness of God, how he desires us to live FREE from sin, alive to him... WE AGREE WITH THIS, we DESIRE IT... but we fail to do it.**
- **EVEN THOUGH we know everything that has led up to this point is TRUE OF US, we still struggle with our FLESH. The perspective that we know what is best. Our flesh is WEAK, and it leads us into sin, pride, self-centeredness, weakness... and it makes us miserable.**

<sup>7:24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

- **THEREFORE! ALL OF THIS BEING TRUE...**

‡ **No condemnation!**

**Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

In Christ, we are set free from the condemnation of SIN

- **WE ARE FORGIVEN.**

**Colossians 2:13** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

**Romans 4:7-8** "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. <sup>8</sup> Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."

- **We are free from condemnation of sin, we are not necessarily free from the consequences of sin, at least in this life. In story from last week, my dad's friend did two prison terms. Many of us bear the scars from our sin, or the sin of other people....**

- *God is against sin because it HURTS US, and he LOVES US. AND even when we are suffering from consequences from sin, we know that IN CHRIST we are forgiven, and because that is true, two other....*

**In Christ, we are set free from the condemnation of OTHERS**

- *Other people may condemn us, mock us, but we know the truth. We don't have to be afraid of man, or try to draw our identity from the approval of others, because our identity is what is true of us IN CHRIST. We are HIS. We are children of the KING. Our lives have been purchased by GOD who loves us, calls us, and has called us his own!*
- *This leads to VERY important truth that...*

**In Christ, we are set free from the condemnation of SELF**

- *This can be the hardest thing for us... to FORGIVE OURSELVES. Something happens that imprints on our soul that we are shameful. Guilt. It buries us!*
- *When voices around us, or our own voice, declare that you are LESS THAN... BY GOD'S GRACE, through FAITH, we may begin to open our eyes to the TRUTH that because I belong to Christ, I AM PRECIOUS, HOLY, AND DEARLY LOVED. I MATTER, my life has eternal worth and value. BECAUSE I AM IN CHRIST, CONDEMNATION has no place with me!*
- *Romans 7- YES, I sin, but that is NOT WHO I AM.*
- *Paul continues... For the believer, there is NO CONDEMNATION, because we have been*

† **Set free. Really.**

**Romans 8:2 (nasb)** *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*

- *Law of 'sin and death'. This is the principal, the observable reality, of our turning away from God, and it's consistent, inevitable, result. As believers, this is the reality of our flesh- the perspective/condition of our heart that trusts ourselves rather than God, leading us into the struggle of R7, last week.*
- *BUT HEAR! For believer, the law/reality of our flesh- sin&death... is the weaker reality. IN CHRIST WE HAVE BEEN SET FREE FROM THIS TRAP, we DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN IT, because of the LAW-reality- of the SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS.*
- *Must understand what Paul means by this, because THIS IS HUGE. The NIV translates this "the law of the Spirit who gives life". The law here is a REALITY FOR THE BELIEVER, and it is that we are indwelt by the PERSON OF CHRIST, the HOLY SPIRIT. We are NOT ALONE to fight this battle.*
- *YOU SEE, in our daily lives, everything that is present, everything that we deal with, it is NOT our knowledge, or a principal that sets us free, able to PREVAIL and live in HOPE and JOY ... we are SET FREE BY A PERSON- the PERSON of JESUS CHRIST, with us, in us, in union with us, by his Spirit. Hold that thought...*

† **What law cannot do, God has done!**

**Romans 8:3 (NIV)** *For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh...*

- *What WE can never do, God has done*
- *What is this? We can never overcome our sin.*
- *God has overcome the CONDEMNATION of our sin through the CROSS. That is PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE.*

- **Important phrase: Jesus ‘condemned sin in the flesh’. This doesn’t mean that Jesus condemned the sin we commit in our flesh. IT MEANS that through HIS FLESH, his humanity, his sacrifice of himself on the cross, Jesus has condemned sin forever in the life of the believer.**
- **Word ‘condemned’ here is sense of a courtroom... sin is on trial, it has been revealed for what it is. But sin’s condemnation is more than just a pronouncement... it is put into action. Picture is like a derelict building that has been ‘condemned’, and is going to be torn down, destroyed.**
- **LIKEWISE, God has pronounced that through his Son, sin has been declared condemned in our lives, and he has destroyed its power, and is tearing it down so that it will no longer poison our soul, our marriages, our lives**
- **HEAR! God DOES THIS- present tense- He provides the means to overcome the PRESENT power of our flesh, power of sin, through our relationship with him... our dependence upon him... HIS PRESENCE.**

### † It all comes down to this

**Romans 8:4 (KJV)** *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

- **Righteousness... God has GIVEN us his righteousness... declared us righteous, because of our faith. ALSO, inseparable from this, is that BEING MADE NEW, our lives will change. Because of the presence of Jesus Christ with us, because of LOVE OF HIM, how he leads us to LOVE EACH OTHER, the righteousness of God’s character will increasingly be realized, experienced in us... NOT BECAUSE WE ARE SUPER COMMITTED TO LIVE RIGHT, but because we WALK AFTER THE SPIRIT.**
- **Chose KJV here because best translates the verb WALK. (as does nasb, others).**
- **Not passive. We WALK... is a choice. It is intentional. In Christ, to WALK is to follow a PERSON. Not a moral code. Not a set of theological premises. Not a list of rules. A PERSON.**
- **WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE? Paul will lead us into great depth when we continue in R8, but now, a few thoughts: To walk with Jesus, in obedience to him, ‘after him’, abide with him...**
  - **Choice to WORSHIP. To recognize WHO HE IS.**
  - **Choice to BELIEVE who we are because of him. What is true of you in Christ.**
  - **In some way, your walk with Jesus will take TIME. Focus. Prayer. Not a formula, but it won’t happen by accident.**
- **When we WALK with Jesus, follow, there will be places you can be certain he will lead you.**
  - **Into patience, kindness- fruit of the spirit.**
  - **To put others above yourself... rather than ‘how do I protect my position’, HE will lead us into a missional outlook on life... ‘how will God work through me to minister to another person’**
  - **Into generosity, sacrificial love toward others**
  - **Into the courage to share your love of Jesus**
  - **Into crisis with the sin present in our lives**
  - **Into HOPE. Into PEACE. Into trust. Into FAITH.**