

No Condemnation!

Romans 8:1-4

Thought for the Day: In Christ, God forgives and forgets all of our sins and transgressions. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more" (Isaiah 43:25). "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34; cf. Hebrews 10:17).

It is a precious truth that can be hard for us to truly accept and believe in our heart of hearts that in Christ, God forgives and forgets all of our sins!

Gleanings from Charles Swindoll: *Insights on Romans*, pp. 154-55.

- Paul's self-portrait in Romans 7:13-25 teaches us that "self-improvement carried out in the energy of the flesh is a vain pursuit."
- "No, we are not saved by grace and then sanctified by our own labors... The point of Paul's miserable self-portrait in 7:13-25 is to demonstrate that humanity can no more purify itself of sin after salvation than before. Only God can purify [and perfect] a soul."
- "So, what is our duty now as believers saved by grace? Our primary purpose is to know Jesus Christ personally with ever-deepening intimacy (Phil. 3:8-11)."
- "The spiritual disciplines are not a means to holiness; they are a means of knowing Christ. As we engage in personal piety... as we come to know Him more intimately—the Holy Spirit will do what only He can do: make us more like our Savior. As the moon reflects the light of the sun, yet has no light of its own, so we will shine with God's radiance as we live in proximity to His Son." (cf. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)
- The lifelong process of sanctification (growth in holiness and becoming more like the Lord Jesus Christ) is a divine-human partnership in which the Holy Spirit is continually transforming us into the likeness of Jesus Christ as we persistently pursue intimate relationship with Him. (Cf. Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Timothy 4:7; 2 Timothy 2:21-22; Philippians 2:12; and note the promises of Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 10:14; 7:25).

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

- **Therefore:** A very important *connecting* word that signals that what follows is based on and flows out of what precedes.
- What follows? No condemnation! Why?
 - Because we are *in* Christ Jesus.
 - Because when God looks at those who are in Christ Jesus, He sees the righteousness of His Son.
 - If God will not condemn His Son, He will not condemn those who are in His Son! (cf. Ephesians 1:3)
 - How do we come to be in Christ Jesus? We are in Christ Jesus when He is in us. How does Christ come to be in us? We invite Him in! (cf. Revelation 3:20; John 14:18-23; 1 John 5:11-13)

- What precedes? Our struggle with sin and our fallen sinful nature. (Romans 7:13-25)
 - Verse 24 – Paul is in the valley of despair and despondency because of the overwhelming conspiracy between sin and his sinful nature (the flesh).
 - Verse 25 – Paul is on the mountain top looking over into the Promised Land of deliverance from this conspiracy through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Verse 8:1 – Paul has now entered in and discovered that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus! In Christ, he can be delivered from “the body of death” and “the law of sin” (7:24-25; his body used as an instrument by his tyrannical sinful nature to engage in sin resulting in death and separation from God).
- Our ongoing struggle with sin is real, but the war has been won and the victory is sure—the Lord will *NEVER* condemn us!
- Jesus has already suffered the condemnation we deserve and its consequences on our behalf!
- **No condemnation:** to pronounce or declare guilty, usually after the weighing of evidence; to convict. (*Webster’s Dict.*)
 - “There is no condemnation...” In it’s place there is now justification (to declare “not guilty”) for those who are in Christ Jesus.
 - Romans 3:23-24, 28; 4:22-24; 5:1, 9, 16-18; 8:28-30. Cf. John 3:16-18.
 Born of the Spirit with life from above Into God’s family divine,
 Justified *fully* thro’ Calvary’s love—O what a standing is mine!
 And the transaction so quickly was made When as a sinner I came—
 Took of the offer of grace He did proffer. He saved me; O praise His dear name!”
 (2nd stanza – *Heaven Came Down* by John W. Peterson)
- **In Christ Jesus:**
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22 – “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”
 - Romans 3:14 – “the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” [We have been purchased and set free from the marketplace of sin]
 - Romans 6:11 – we are “alive to God in Christ Jesus.” [Responsive to Him; we can have an intimate, personal relationship with Him]
 - Romans 6:22 – we receive “...the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” [His righteousness replaces our sinfulness, guilt and shame]
 - Romans 6:23 – “...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [Not only eternity in heaven, but a new quality of life, the abundant life Jesus promised His followers in John 10:10]
 - Romans 8:1 – “there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - Romans 8:2 – we are “set free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” [The Holy Spirit empowers us to live free of the indwelling power of our sinful nature]
 - Romans 8:39 – nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [We experience and enjoy God’s unfailing love]

The burden that once I carried is gone, Of all my sins there remaineth not one.
 Jesus, the Savior, hath ransomed me, Bearing my sins upon Calvary.

Giving me glorious liberty; My burden of sin is gone! (by Haldor Lillenas)