“No Condemnation NOW”

August 12, 2018

Romans 8:30-39

Please find with me the eighth chapter of Romans.

Although I want you to turn to Romans 8, there’s a story in John 8 that is well-worth repeating. Jesus, as He often did, was teaching early one morning at the Temple. And, as He taught, some Pharisees and Scribes interrupted Him by dragging a woman through the crowd of listeners. They laid her in front of Him and proceeded to tempt Him with these words. John 8:4 *“…Master [Teacher], this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. (5) Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?”*

Jesus doesn’t say a word. Instead, He kneels down and, with His finger, begins to write in the sand. So, the Pharisees repeat their question again and again. Finally Jesus stands up and says this John 8:7 *“…He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.”* He then stoops down a second time and goes back to writing in the sand.

While He’s writing, every single Pharisee, every single Scribe walks away, leaving the woman, I’m sure, in shock, alone. And Jesus stands up and asks her two questions John 8:7 *“…Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?”*

She answers John 8:11 *“…No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*

Talk about a magnificent Savior. This must have been the most glorious day in that woman’s life. It’s certainly an indication of the most beautiful heart in existence and how *He* sees a condemned sinner; and how ready *He* is to forgive; especially when He says the words *“Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.”*

I’ve titled today’s sermon “No Condemnation NOW.” Shall we pray?

Romans 8:1. When I was in Junior High School, our teacher had the wisdom to take us on a number of field trips. I only remember one. And I remember exactly what was said by the man giving the tour.

One of the students in our class was named Jack. By the way, Jack was the smartest student in the class. And I met him a few years after we graduated and Jack had become a Christian.

Jack’s father worked for the Binghamton Press newspaper in Binghamton New York. And so, naturally, we went on a field trip to “The Press.” And here’s the only thing I remember from Jack’s dad’s tour of the newspaper that day. He said this. *“In writing copy for a news article, in order to get your message out, you had to answer five questions. And if you answered those five questions, you succeed in getting your message across. Here they are: who, where, what, when, and how.”* Simple, isn’t it? So simple, I remember it to this very day.

I want again express my appreciation to each of you for praying for me as I prepare my sermons each week. I also want to express my appreciation to you for giving me the privilege of teaching and preaching Romans. Thank you all very much.

This week, as I studied and meditated on Romans 8, I immediately saw all five questions answered in this passage. So, see if you can recognize them as I read.

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. (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.”*

Look with me at Jack’s dad’s prescription for good copy writing.

Who? To Them.

Where? Which are in Christ Jesus.

What? No Condemnation.

When? NOW.

How? By God sending Christ in the likeness of sinful flesh.

And I found an answer to a sixth question, “Why?” So that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us.

I hope that Romans eight becomes for you one of the most blessed passages you will ever lay your eyes on. Some of the greatest Bible teachers say the exact same things about Romans chapter eight. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Pastor of the Westminster Chapel in London, England for 30 years; James Montgomery Boice, Pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia for 32 years; Charles Stanley, Pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta for 47 years and still going; and John Piper, Pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis for 33 years all believed the exact same thing; that Romans eight was the greatest chapter in the Bible.

And the 17th Century German Commentator Philipp Jakob Spener said this. *“If the Bible was a ring and the Book of Romans its precious stone, then Romans 8 would be the sparkling point of the jewel.”* [Found on www. [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com) “The Greatest Chapter in The Bible” by Pastor Freddy Fritz].

And just one more. Moody Bible Institute teacher William R. Newell said, *“There is scarcely a passage in the New Testament that is more delightful reading to the spiritual Christian than the eighth of Romans...There is an atmosphere of blessing all through it...for the blessed Holy Spirit breathes throughout it -- the indwelling Deliverer, Quickener, Guide, Assurer, Helper, Intercessor.”*

Newell, by the way was the one who wrote the Hymn “At Calvary.” “*Years I spent in vanity and pride,*

*Caring not my Lord was crucified,*

*Knowing not it was for me He died*

*On Calvary.”*

In Romans eight we find something totally wonderful in light of the words Paul had just written in Romans seven, where we read this. Romans 7:20 *“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?*

*(25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation…”*

So, first, a conclusion.

Romans 8:1 *“Therefore…”*

Some of you have watched the news on the wildfires that are literally burning California to the ground. Right now there are fourteen of these wildfires. And the only answer is prayer.

It’s frightening, to say the least. Now, if I said to you, *“the fires have already burned down 2,000 homes. And now, our develop-ment is being threatened,* ***therefore*** *we had to evacuate,”* you’d see that **therefore** joins two closely connected ideas.

So, says Paul, since the only solution to the sin that indwells your flesh is found in Jesus Christ, and since you are now in Him, **therefore** you can never again be condemned by God for what you’ve done.

Can you remember with me God’s condemnation of the entire human race found in the earlier chapters of Romans? The “therefore” of Romans 8 is the conclusion Paul comes to after he has described how God provides a perfect righteousness for everyone who believes on Christ.

This is what *was* true for you before you came to the LORD. Romans 5:16 *“…the judgment was by one [Adam] to condemnation …”* Romans 5:18 *“Therefore as by the offence of one [Adam] judgment came upon all men to condemnation.”*

Everyone from Adam on through the history of the world to babies being born right this second are under God’s righteous condemnation. We are all in Adam.

And, as you’ve heard me say so many times, everything changes when you come to the LORD. We were many things when we did not know the LORD. But one of the greatest things that has happened to us now that we belong to Him is this. “Therefore there is no condemnation.” This is the end of condemnation. This is what is true now.

So, first, a conclusion. And wouldn’t you agree with me that there is no greater conclusion than Romans 8:1 for the child of God?

First, a conclusion.

Second, an unimaginable change. “No Condemnation NOW.” Now he answers the question when? Paul says present tense, now and forever.

Haven’t you found that a lot of what God says about you is almost too good to be true?

Remember this.

What I was before I came to the LORD.

I was lost, condemned, a sinner, unholy, disobedient, in spiritual darkness, selfish and self-dependent, etc. and etc.

Now, this is what I am and have since I came to the LORD.

I am complete in Christ – Colossians 2:10

I am dead to sin and alive God – Romans 6:10

I am been made free from sin – Romans 6:18

I am born of God – I John 5:18

I am holy and without blame – Ephesians 1:4

I have the mind of Christ – I Corinthians 2:16

I enjoy the peace of God – Philippians 4:7

I have the Greatest One living in me – I John 4:4

I have received the gift of righteousness – Romans 5:17

I have no lack – Philippians 4:19

I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me – Philippians 4:13

I have been created in Christ to good works – Eph. 2:10

I am a new creature in Christ – II Corinthians 5:17

I am a joint-heir with Christ – Romans 8:17

I am more than a conqueror through Christ – Rom. 8:37

I am forever uncondemned – Romans 8:1

And folks, these things, although hard to believe, are true.

So, an unimaginable change has taken place in your life. And it’s true NOW, says the Holy Spirit in Paul. Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore* ***NOW*** *no condemnation.”*

Who here is willing to acknowledge that you struggle with thoughts you don’t like or want? And haven’t you even felt that you were *condemned* even as a Christian? Well, here’s something you need just like I need it every single day and at every single turn in the road of life.

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore* ***now*** *no condemnation…”*

Now is an adverb. It’s a time adverb. It means “at this very moment.”

Romans 6:8 *“****Now*** *if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: …”*

Aren’t you NOW dead with Christ?

Romans 6:19 *“…for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so* ***now*** *yield [present] your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”*

Are you not right NOW presenting your members servants to righteousness unto holiness?

Romans 6:22 *“But* ***now*** *being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”*

So, who here is free from sin? Who here has become a servant of God. You here has their fruit unto holiness? NOW you are free from sin. NOW you are a servant of God. Now you have your fruit unto holiness. You see, the Law brought us God’s condemnation. The Law always brings condemnation; God’s fair, and just and righteous condemnation. But that was THEN. Now, His grace brings us complete and eternal deliverance from all condemnation which we really did deserve.

Why was it that Jesus came? John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

The Law is a clear statement of God’s rules. The Law has full authority. The Law says “Thou shalt not.” God requires you to adhere to His rules. But the Law also is weak. Why? Because you can never keep the Law. It was never God’s intention that you gain His approval and the reward of Heaven by keeping those laws. Instead by His law comes the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20 *“Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

You see, in law God expects something from you. In grace, He gives to us what He expects. So, by His grace there is NOW no condemnation.

How many people do you know who think they are quite good apart from Jesus Christ? Quite a few. Well, for all those who think they are good apart from Christ, they, like the Pharisees who brought the adulteress to Jesus, will find no way of deliverance from condemnation. Every one of those who were involved in bringing the adulteress to Jesus walked away that day. So, no, there is no removal of condemnation for them.

As long as you think you are good enough for Heaven without Jesus, you will never find deliverance. But, the moment, like the adulteress, you acknowledge your sin, then and only then can God remove it.

And what happened to the adulteress? She knew the Law had rightly condemned her. But in just one word Jesus completely removed all condemnation for all her sins. So, that morning at the Temple, as the Pharisees and Scribes walked away, the condemned woman was NOW no longer under the Law’s just condemnation. She could go home and say to herself and to anyone and everyone who would listen “I am no longer condemned. NOW, there is no condem-nation.” And what has happened to millions since the crucifixion of Jesus? We all are no longer under condem-nation.

Charles Wesley wrote some 6,000 Christian hymns. This is probably his greatest. “And Can It Be?” Notice the fourth verse on the matter of no condemnation. Wesley was saved on May 21st, 1738. And very soon after his conversion, he wrote this hymn.

Verse one “And can it be that I should gain
An int’rest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Verse five No condemnation **now** I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

So, first, a conclusion; therefore

Second, an unimaginable change. “No Condemnation NOW.”

Third, a brand new standing; verse one again.

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****.”*

For whom does this unimaginable change apply? Answer: To them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, buy after the Spirit.”

Let’s say, for a moment, that you spent all day yesterday working in your flowerbed. You dug and dug and weeded and planted and raked and SWEATED. So, how did you feel after you take a shower? You felt clean all over. It was a great feeling.

You see, the moment of salvation is the moment you are completely cleaned. You enter into Christ. Yes, it’s true that Christ enters you. But just as amazing is this. You have now entered Him.

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****.”*

Do you know what the basis for there being no more condemnation for you and me is? Isn’t it because of the Cross of Christ? Isn’t it because He died? Isn’t it because He paid your penalty for your sin? Isn’t it because He conquered death. So, you will never again be condemned for your sins based upon Christ and His accomplishments. Think about it like this.

“If Christ could experience condemnation today, so can you. If Christ cannot ever again (since the Cross) experience condemnation, then neither can you.”

Now, why is it that Christians sometimes quote “feel” condemned? One reason. They have put themselves back under the Law. For you it’s still “What have I not done that I should have done?” “Why can’t I please the LORD?” “Why can’t I spend more time in God’s Word and more time in prayer?” “Why can’t I live up to what God expects of me?”

Folks, if Jesus can experience even one minute of condemnation, then you can too. But if there’s no condem-nation for Him, then there’s no condemnation for you. Why? Because you are “in Him.”

No, it’s not enough for Christ to be “in you.” It’s only enough for you to be “in Christ.” And the sooner you catch up to “what” God is saying about you here, the sooner you will be relieved of those thoughts and feelings of condem-nation.

Folks, God does not want you to live apart from the Spirit of Truth. Paul says “who walk.” This simply means “who live.”

Do you live in the Spirit? Then, walk in the Spirit. Everyone who belongs to Christ is “in Christ.” You have a brand new and an eternal standing with the LORD. He can never chase you away, never.

Jesus once said this John 6:37 *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”*

Christian, you no longer walk after the flesh. You walk in the Spirit.

Now, last, why do some Christians struggle and fail time and again? Here’s why. They don’t see themselves as they really are. Here’s what you really are. You are “in Christ.”

So, as long as you insist that you have a sin nature, you will forever fight against sin and lose every single time. But when you finally come to insist that God is right and that you now have the new nature of Jesus Christ living in you and further, when you finally insist that you are “in Him,” you will focus no longer on *your* ability or inability, but on who you are In Christ and on His ability to effect any and all changes within you.

You may have heard this story before. But I want to re-emphasize it. One summer, three boys were very hot and decided to go for a swim. One of the boys was a very good swimmer; one was mediocre; and one had little or no understanding at all of swimming.

The one boy who was not a swimmer at all had doggy-paddled out away from the shore only to realize he had no idea of how to swim back. And he got a muscle cramp in his leg. And within seconds he was struggling and about to drown. Then, at the very last second, when the strongest swimmer could see that his friend was finally done struggling, just about to go down for the last time, quickly swam out to him and in seconds had him safely on shore.

Christian, if you are the one struggling in your Christian walk, here’s the answer. Quit struggling and fully surrender yourself to the Perfect Heavenly Swimmer. He’s the Only One who can deliver you. And the moment you surrender all, the LORD instantly intervenes and delivers you.

Remember what Paul said to us just before Romans 8:1? Romans 7:24 *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

Now, will there ever be struggles to come? Yes. Will there ever to doubts again? Yes. Will there be failings and sin? Yes. But will you ever be condemned again? NEVER because you are “in Him.” If He can be condemned, then you can too. If He can’t be condemnation, then neither can you.

No doubt, you remember the story of the prodigal son. J. Vernon McGee made this comment in his sermon on the prodigal son that I think very much applies here because we all sometimes doubt or struggle or sin. McGee asked this question. *“Do you know the difference between the son in that pigpen and the pig? The difference is that no pig has ever said to himself, “I will arise and go to my father.”*

This is a true story. At the age of thirteen a girl named Vickie received a most surprising gift. Vickie grew up on a farm with her family. One year when Vickie was about 13 years old, her dad purchased a brand new car. Prior to this he had never owned a new car and had worked very hard to make this purchase. He took great pleasure in everything about this car: its shiny chrome, its purring engine, its beautiful unblemish-ed paint, and its comfortable seats. Everything about it was amazing. Vickie’s dad was thrilled to drive this vehicle and call it his own.

Not long after this purchase, Vickie’s dad gave Vickie the keys to this vehicle and said, *“Honey, would you please pull the car out of the garage for me?”* Well, Vickie was super, super excited by her dad’s request. She took the keys to the car, got in the car and started it up! She put the car in reverse and began to back out when suddenly she heard this awful grinding noise. She realized that she had gotten too close to the side of the garage and had just roughly scraped the side of her dad’s new car against it. She put her head down on the steering wheel knowing that she had made a terrible mistake. She got out of the car to look at the damage, and her stomach sank to her ankles as she saw that the shiny new chrome was scraped completely off the car from the front all the way to the back. Vickie thought her life was over. In despair, she ran behind the barn into the tall weeds and sat down beside a fence post. And there she began to cry. She cried her precious little eyes out. She loved her dad. She knew that this was going to break his heart. She readied herself for the stiff punishment that she believed was due to her for her negligence. Her face was still down and flushed with tears when she felt a gentle hand upon her shoulder. She looked up to see her dad lovingly looking at her. He didn’t say a word, but instead he pulled her up to her feet, he wrapped his big arms around her and just held her as she cried.

Vickie said this. “Truly this was a precious gift that I didn’t deserve which powerfully impacts my life to this very day.” Vickie’s gift from her dad was simply the gift of freedom from condemnation. This gift was so precious because it revealed her father’s true heart toward her. Instead of punishing her for her misdeed in anger, he hugged her in love and let her know that he would not condemn her, not today, not tomorrow, not ever. [Found on https:// bethanycentral.org “No Condemnation” by Dr. Ritch Boerckel July 17, 2016]

So, what will you do with Romans 8:1 today? What will you do with “No Condemnation NOW”? One thing and one thing alone; believe that Romans 8:1 is your best friend.

There is “No Condemnation NOW.”

Shall we pray?

Hymn #