

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Wednesday Sermon

Date: January 06, 2021

Text: Romans 8:1-4

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:1-4

Subject: No condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus

In the last twelve verses of the seventh chapter, we found these things about all of us who are the redeemed of the LORD.

1. We saw that since we were converted we do that which we allow not and what we would do, we do not. We saw that it was sin that dwelled in us – that is, in our flesh.
2. We understood that in us, that is in our flesh, dwelled no good thing. We were willing, but found not how to perform that which is good.
3. We found a law – that every time we purposed to do good; evil was present with us – every time, without exception.
4. We saw ourselves in our flesh as wretched and cried “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Thank God, it is through Jesus Christ our Lord.
5. We concluded that we have the sure victory in Christ, and will with the mind (the inner man) serve the law of God; but with the flesh (the old man), the law of sin.

Now, we come to the 8th chapter of Romans which begins with “There is **therefore now...**” which refers us back to all that is written in the 7th chapter concerning the conflict between the flesh (the old man) and the Spirit (the new man) or we might say between the mind (inner man) and the flesh (the fallen man). Paul was assured of victory through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:1 (KJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

There is therefore now no condemnation – The lusting of our flesh against the Spirit (and the mind) is a continuous fact of our life – but the victory over this “wretched man that I am” is both sure and present with us. In Jesus Christ, which we are by faith in Jesus Christ, there is therefore **NOW** no (no, not one) condemnation. We shall be delivered from the body of this death at the first resurrection, but NOW (at this present time), there is no condemnation.

John 3:18 (KJV) *He that believeth on him is **not condemned**: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

John 5:24 (KJV) *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and **shall not come into condemnation**; but is passed from death unto life.*

Romans 8:34 (KJV) ***Who is he that condemneth?** It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

To them which are in Christ Jesus, -- No condemnation to them (every one of them) which are in Christ Jesus. What a statement! “in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 1:1 (KJV) *Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, **to all the saints in Christ Jesus** which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:*

Philippians 3:9 (KJV) *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV) *Therefore if any man be **in Christ**, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

Romans 16:7-11 (KJV) *Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were **in Christ** before me. **8** Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord. **9** Salute Urbane, our helper **in Christ**, and Stachys my beloved. **10** Salute Apelles approved **in Christ**. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household. **11** Salute Herodion my kinsman. Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, **which are in the Lord.***

Look at this:

(1) We were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4 (KJV) *According as he hath chosen us **in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

(2) We gave ourselves up to be in him in conversion and baptism.

Romans 6:4-6 (KJV) *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified*

with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

(3) Having died with him; being raised with him; our life is hidden in him in the heavenlies.

Ephesians 2:4-7 (KJV) *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **in Christ Jesus: 7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

Colossians 3:1-4 (KJV) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid **with Christ in God.** 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

Who walk not after the flesh, -- At least two of the commentators who are said to be dispensationalists (C. I. Scofield and Arno Gaebelin) claim that the last ten words of this verse are interpolated. "Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." I believe that is not true. The Textus Receptus contains these ten words. Tyndale's translation of the New Testament contains these words and our King James Version of the Holy Scriptures contains these words. What then, does it mean "Who walk not after the flesh?"

As I mentioned before, this verse looks back to the seventh chapter. Paul had there shown that the law could not give deliverance from sin, but that such deliverance was to be traced to

the gospel alone, [Ro 7:23-25](#). It is taught, therefore that there was condemnation under the law, and would be still, but for the blessings of the Gospel of Christ. This does not mean that sin in believers (which we saw to be true in the seventh chapter) is not to be condemned as much as anywhere, for the contrary is everywhere taught in the Scriptures; but it means:

(1.) that the gospel does not pronounce condemnation like the law. Its purpose is to pardon; the office of the law, to condemn. The law never affords deliverance, but always condemns; the object of the gospel of Jesus Christ is to free from condemnation, and to set the soul at liberty.

(2.) There is no *final* condemnation under the gospel. The design and tendency of the gospel is freedom from the condemning sentence of law. This is its first and its glorious announcement, that it frees lost and ruined men from a most fearful and terrible condemnation.

...***who walk not after the flesh***, -- There is no condemnation to those who do not live to gratify the corrupt desires and passions of the flesh. This is a characteristic of a Christian. What it is to walk after the flesh may be seen in **Gal. 5:19-21**.

Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV) *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

A person whose purpose of life is to gratify his corrupt desires cannot be a Christian. Unless he lives not to gratify his flesh, he can have no evidence of godliness. If every professor of faith in Christ were honest, there could be no danger of mistake, and there need be no doubts about his true character. The apostle does not say, there is no condemnation to them that have no flesh in them, for this every born-again person has; nor to them that are in the flesh, that is, the body; but who walk not after the flesh, that is, corrupt nature; and it speaks of such who do not follow the dictates of the carnal nature and do not make it their guide, or go on and persist in a continued series of sinning.

But after the Spirit. – There is no condemnation to the person who walks as the Holy Spirit leads or prompts. What the Spirit produces may be seen in **Gal.** 5:22-23. If a man has these fruits of the Spirit, he is a true believer; If not, he is a stranger to the faith of Christ, whatever else he may possess.

Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV) *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

[Note: (John Gill says): "The phrase, "but after the Spirit", is left out in the Alexandrian copy, and in the Vulgate Latin, and Syriac versions; and the whole description of the persons in some copies, and in the Ethiopic version."] This should alert all of us to the folly of the many other translations of the scripture which come from the Alexandrian copy. I looked at the *New International Version (NIV)*, *New American Standard Bible (NASB)*, and the *English Standard Version (ESV)* – and all of them do not have these ten words of verse 1. I also consulted the *American Standard Version (ASV)* and the *Revised Standard Version (RSV)* which omits these ten words. Here is some history of the ASV: "The American Standard Version, which

was also known as The American Revision of 1901, is rooted in the work begun in 1870 to revise the King James Bible of 1611. This revision project eventually produced the Revised Version (RV). An invitation was extended to American religious leaders for scholars to work on the RV project. In 1871, thirty scholars were chosen by Philip Schaff." – Wikipedia.

Romans 8:2 (KJV) *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus – The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is a clause that encompasses all that is involved in the salvation of an elect person by the grace of God. This is the only place where this exact phrase appears in the NT. In my view, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus encompasses everything that is involved in setting us as sinners free.

1. God's everlasting love set on his elect.
2. God's choosing his elect before the foundation of the world and writing their names in the lamb's book of life.
3. God's purpose in sending his only begotten Son as a lamb slain from before the foundation of the world
4. God slaying his own Son at the hands of wicked men as a once for all sacrifice for all of their sins for all time.
5. God raising His slain Son from the dead after three days and three nights; his appearing to chosen witnesses of the resurrection; and his ascension to the right hand of God to make intercession for His people.
6. God calling his own sheep (his elect) to conversion by the preached gospel of Christ. God sending the Holy Spirit into their hearts as an earnest of their redemption.
7. In short, all that God did and is doing to bestow on us a complete salvation which shall, without doubt, culminate in our presence with him in glory.

Hath made me free from the law of sin and death. -- That law of the spirit of life in Christ has freed me from the law of sin and death. This is a reference to the law which brings condemnation and death for law breakers. But Jesus did not come to judge or condemn the world, but to save.

2 Corinthians 3:6-10 (KJV) *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: **for the letter killeth**, but the spirit giveth life. **7** But if **the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones**, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: **8** How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? **9** For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory. **10** For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.*

Romans 8:3 (KJV) ***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:***

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, -- See that? What the law **could** not do. What it was not able to do – had no power to do. The Ten Commandments commanded that which was just, and holy, and good – but gave no power to perform. The flesh commonly called the body of this death had no power of itself to keep the commandment – but always and ever was pushing to break the holy law of God and did constantly break it.

God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: -- Our Lord Jesus Christ had a human body with the LIKENESS of sinful flesh, but was without sin, knew no sin, and could do no sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (KJV) *For he hath made him to be sin for us, **who knew no sin**; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

1 Peter 2:21-22 (KJV) *For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: **22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:***

1 John 3:5 (KJV) *And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and **in him is no sin.***

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV) *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin.***

Hebrews 7:26-27 (KJV) *For such an high priest became us, **who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners**, and made higher than the heavens; **27** Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.*

God condemned the sin of every one of his people in Christ, that is, by the vengeance he took of it. By punishing his own son for sin, he manifested the strictness of his justice – and thereby showed that He was righteous. Through the sufferings of his Son God showed sin to be exceeding sinful indeed because His son was

made an offering for sin. Sin was condemned "in the flesh" of Christ, who was put to death in the flesh, "for" the sins of his people, and bore all the punishment due unto them. Let's make it personal. He bore all our sins in his own body on the tree!

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.*

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, --
It was that he might perfectly fulfil the righteousness of the law in or for us, which for us ourselves to do in our own persons was utterly impossible. His fulfilling of the law is imputed unto us who believe and is accepted of God on our behalf. We are accounted just and righteous, as if we had perfectly kept the law ourselves.

Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. – As in verse 1 – those whose manner of life is not to follow the flesh (the old nature), but the Holy Spirit as he guide us in God's holy word.

Praise God! There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.