

## IX. The New Man – Thinking – Spirit Aligned (Ch. 8)

Roll Tide!



### We Have:

- Justification (Ch.3)
- Gift of Grace (Ch. 4)
- Peace with God (Ch. 5a)
- New citizenship in the Dominion of Grace (Ch. 5b & 6a)
- Freedom from the Law (Ch. 6b & 7a)
- Deliverance from the Body of Death (7b)

### A. Now: No Condemnation (8:1-4)

This is probably the most controversial passage when people consider translation issues. The second half of the verse is omitted, italicized, footnoted and almost bolded as a result depending on your Bible version.

Three views:

- Second half was added as a scribal error because of the context.
  - Meaning = there is no condemnation – period (both now or future).
  - Some would say the second half is not in the original but is clearly in view because of the context.
  - Predominant view in current academic circles.
  - The concept is certainly true. We are justified apart from works so even if chapter 7 leads us to realize that we desire to live righteously but have no ability to – we still have no condemnation.
- Second half was part of the original text.
  - Meaning = We are able to live in such a way that our way of life is not condemnable when we live by means of the Spirit. (Not able to be condemned now.)
  - Predominant view in the past and gaining some ground today.
  - Fits the context very well and again is certainly a true concept.

- Second half was part of the original text
  - Meaning= We are able to live free of God's judgments on mankind when we walk after the Spirit. In this context those past judgments were detailed for us in Romans 1 when God said He gave them over to continually grow in sinfulness.
  - View held by Rene A. Lopez in his book "*Romans Unlocked: Power to Deliver*".
  - Fits the overall context of Romans well and fits the immediate context of Romans 8:1-4 very well.

I'm not going to officially argue for any point. I lean towards the third because of the context. However, since all these concepts are true and could easily be argued, we will leave this ambiguous.

Why is there "no Condemnation"?

Because: A new Law has set us free! – The Law of the Spirit and Life.

- Law of Sin = we all have sin and fall short of the glory of life. Even saved, we have an influence warring in our bodies that leads us to fleshly lusts.
- Law of Death = Wages of Sin is Death. We all must die.
- Law of God = Holy Standard that reflects God's holiness and causes us to see we are under the law of sin and death.
- Law of Spirit = All believers are united to Christ by the Spirit of God.
- Law of Life = All believers can live righteous lives by means of the Spirit of God.

Because: God's Work

- Law Could not because it depended on our flesh obeying it. This makes it weak. The Law says "Do" and "Don't" but gives us no power to accomplish the command.
- God, in the person of Christ, stepped into flesh and lived the life required. He died the death required. He rose again free from flesh and ended it's reign (He "condemned" the principle of sin in the flesh.)

Because: The righteous requirements of the Law can be fulfilled today!

- No longer must we only find the Romans 7 experience of desiring right in the mind but finding sin in our flesh.
- We can now live according to the Spirit.

### **B. Living by Setting our Minds (8:5-8)**

Ok – Paul starts with something that is clear to us. How did we live according to the flesh?

- Our Flesh get's hungry.
- We think about the fact that we are hungry and what we might enjoy eating.
- We "Dwell" on how much we could eat at the buffet.
- We EAT!

In the same way – we can live by the Spirit.

- I love God and want to know Him More.
- I'll read God's word and think about the truths the Spirit is showing me about who God is and what He has done. (Sent Christ to die in my place – United me to Christ – Did it justly because He is Just, etc...)
- I "Dwell" on how much I love the righteousness of God and How I'm free in Christ to live that righteousness today.
- I do RIGHTEOUSNESS!

**My life does not come under condemnation. Instead, "I Please God!"**

God and my Flesh are enemies. When I set my mind on the lusts of my flesh I'm dwelling with the enemy. The desires and actions I take will be against God.

**Those who are "in the Flesh" cannot please God.**

**C. Saved = Not "in the flesh" (Rom 8:9-11)**

Those who are "in the flesh" = unsaved. Anyone who has been united to Christ by the Spirit is not "in the flesh" but they can set their minds on the things of the flesh.

- In the Flesh (Old Spirit & Old Bodies) **DEAD EARTHLY LIFE**
- In the Spirit (Old Body & New Spirit) **EMPOWERED EARTHLY LIFE**
- Glorification (New Bodies and New Spirit) **EMPOWERED HEAVENLY LIFE**

The fact is that If we have the Spirit than *WE ARE SAVED*. *AND* if we are saved than *THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE TO OUR EARTHLY LIFE*.

**D. Saved = Debtors to now live according to whom we ARE! (Rom 8:12-17)**

Our future is settled, our flesh is passing away but our Spirit will go on into eternity. We are defined by our new life in the spirit. Therefore we SHOULD live according to it.

Vs. 13 gives a condition to determine what our life on earth will display: Death or Life

- Live after the flesh = Die
- By the Spirit put to death the flesh = Live

Now he gives us a general principle and then makes some implications clear to us.

- **PRINCIPLE:** Any led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God
- **IMPLICATION:** We have the Spirit of Adoption and the Spirit of God is leading us to understand our freedom as sons of God.
- **IMPLICATION:** The Spirit speaks to our spirits declaring to us the truth – We are sons of God
- **IMPLICATION:** We are God's Children and therefore we are joint heirs with Christ!
- **IMPLICATION:** We will be glorified with Christ.

We have the Spirit of God and the Spirit of God constantly seeks to remind us, encourage us, teach us, etc that we are sons of God and free to live like it.

Ultimately we will be glorified with Christ and so we are debtors to live that way now!

It sounds like our glorification might be conditional in this passage. However, the grammar used was always used by Paul to indicate a contrast. So Paul is not saying:

*"We are heirs with Christ, YES even Joint-heirs with Christ if we suffer with him."*

But instead, Paul is saying:

*"On one hand, we are heirs with Christ. But on the other hand we are joint-heirs with Christ if we suffer with him."*

This would indicate that all will be glorified but those who suffer with Christ receive a greater glorification of some sort. For more info on this particular topic see Joseph Dillow, *"Reign of the Servant Kings"*.

**E. Glorification of all Creation (Rom 8:18-27)**

Now Paul breaks into a section where he indicates that all of creation is under the curse and only display a mere shadow of the glory they were created with. We are awed by the awesome beauty and depth of God's creation as we see it today. Imagine how it will be when God fully brings all of creation to its glorified state.

Our physical glorification will happen when we receive our new glorified bodies.

While we suffer today we have no idea what the future really holds. We hope for what we do not know. But God does know. The Spirit also does know. Here we are promised that the Spirit is actually praying according the will of God using the knowledge that He has. We don't even know how to pray that God will stay true to His promise

and bring about the full glorification. But the Spirit does and so we can be assured that even today the Spirit is keeping this before the Father!

***F. God's sovereignty guarantees our Glorification! (Rom 8:28-39)***

This is one of the most glorious sections of God's scripture!

We know that all things work together to those who Love God and are called according to His purpose. At this point in the context we know that He is referring to all believers. All of us who have believed have been identified in the fullness of Christ and will one day be fully revealed to be like him. Here is God's part in making this happen!

- God knows beforehand who will believe
- God pre-determines that all who believe will be changed into the image of His Son!
- God calls all those he has pre-determined.
- God justifies all those he has called.
- God glorifies all those he has justified.

In this context, everything is seen in the past tense. This was a common way of expressing God's actions throughout scripture. Nothing can change God's plans so anything He says is seen as already done. God certainly is not defined by time as we are. Tense really has no meaning when we are talking about God's plans.

Christ's actions are completed and He lives again. He cannot die so it is impossible for His action to pass away and be forgotten. Christ is sitting on the right hand of the Father and the Spirit is praying for this to happen and God the Father has already pre-determined all of it.

I think we are pretty secure!!!

Paul closes this out with a long-winded description of how impossible for anyone else to plead with God, fight with God or in any way change what God has ordained. We are secure.