

Transformed, Part 7, Romans 8:1 “No Condemnation”

This morning we begin Chapter 8 of the book of Romans – considered by many to be not just the greatest Chapter in the book of Romans – but the greatest Chapter in the entire Bible.

A) Romans, Chapter 8 has been described as “the mountain peak” of Scripture and “the chapter of chapters for the Christian believer.”

B) Many commentators quote a German author by the name of Spener who many years ago said it this way:
“If Holy Scripture was a ring, and the Epistle to the Romans a precious stone, Chapter 8 would be the sparkling point of the jewel.”

C) All that Paul has said in the book of Romans is brought to a Climax here in Ch.8 –

1) It is here that he really begins to explain what Life in the Spirit looks like.

D) Up to this point in the book of Romans the Holy Spirit has been mentioned 4 times.

1) But here in **Ch.8 – the H.S is mentioned 19 times**

E) The way to victory in the Christian life {Sanctification} is because Our Risen Lord has given us His Spirit – Reside in our hearts

1) Life and Victory – come as we learn to Walk according to the Spirit and Live according to the Spirit.

The Spirit filled life is a major focus of this 8th Chapter and we will begin to unpack that in our study next week. {PRAY FOR ME-PLEASE}

A) But for our time today – I felt led by the HS to look at just one verse.

B) The reason is this – before we can even begin to learn to walk in the Spirit and learn about Sanctification.

1) We need to believe and live in the truth that is presented here in Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,

Five TAKE AWAY truths - #1 Justification must precede and empower Sanctification.

In Romans Ch. 7 – We saw the apostle Paul sharing the frustration of living life in the Flesh. – He had times like all of us do.

A) The things I want to do – I don’t do - Get up early and pray – over sleep

B) The things I don’t want to do – I end up doing –

1) I am not going to lose my patience today with my teen ager - - I do

2) No sooner said – I am frustrated at him/her.

C) We have all been there – Fail miserably at times –

1) **Not all the time** But there is this constant struggle with the flesh – body prone to sin.

Paul mentioned came to two very important conclusions – he came to through his failure.

A) **V.18 In me – my flesh – dwells nothing good.** – Separate me from Jesus – mess

B) **V24 I am a wretched man** – Mess – worn out –
1) that becomes the most apparent any time – I try to please God in the energy of my flesh.

C) Results is what has been called **Daisy Theology!**
1) He loves me / He loves me not

D) **Today I succeeded – He loves me / Last hour I failed – He loves me not**

1) **Last week I overcame** – He loves me / Yesterday I stumbled – He loves me not

He loves me / He loves me not is often the mindset of those who try to live to please God, BE JUSTIFIED in the energy of their flesh.

A) That is putting **Sanctification before Justification**

B) But when I realize – I am mess – nothing good dwells – I need **someone** to fix me {NOT SOMETHING} – Someone

C) Not Looking for **a How** – but Looking for **Who** { Answer is Jesus

1) Place my faith in Jesus - Justified by Faith – Declared Righteous **and Placed in Christ!**

C) Declaration: **There is therefore NOW NO CONDEMNATION** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Take Away Truth #2 The only Criteria for being Justified is being placed in Christ.

A) Notice does not simply say – there is NO CONDEMNATION

B) it is reserved for those who are IN CHRIST – It is because of where you have been placed – You are in Christ

1) **In Christ** – one of Paul's favorite themes – the Phrases –in Christ or In Him appears 87 times in the NT.

C) Note: the second part of verse 1 in our English Bibles – **the part that says who do not walk according to the flesh.....the Spirit.**

1) That part of this verse is not in the original text – but has been placed there by translators in an attempt to **clarify** the text.

E) But in reality it brings **confusion** to the text rather than Clarity.

By attaching this phrase to v.1 it makes walking in the Spirit or Sanctification a condition of

Justification – rather than **the evidence** of one who is enjoying the reality of being Justified.

A) We will talk more about this – next time as we look at v.2-4 but it is important that you realize it doesn't belong in V.1

B) V.1 Stands alone – as a glorious declaration - **There is therefore NOW ...NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

C) That is sometimes so hard for us to accept – Often times our mentality is ok – I know that I am forgiven, but now I am on Probation –

1) I better not fail again - 3 strikes and you are out – Right?

No, Condemnation does not mean that you are on probation.

A) It means as long as you are IN CHRIST –you are not condemned at all.

B) Faith in Christ – Forgiven – Jesus places His Spirit in your Heart

1) You are placed in Him

C) God the father Chooses to see you in His Son

1) **Paul's point in Ch. 6 – United with Christ in His death as well as in His Resurrection.**

Jesus died the death that I should have died –

A) He lived the life that I couldn't live

B) He rose again & lives and now seeks to impart His life to those who believe

C) So by faith I am now placed in Christ – My Position before God!

D) God sees me in Christ – Jesus met the terms of my sentence

1) He took my place in condemnation – so that he might transfer to me His righteousness

E) That is why for us – there is NO CONDEMNATION for those who are in Christ – Jesus was already condemned in our Place.

Several years ago - President Obama wrote a memorable absent note for 4th grader in GREEN BAY, Wis.

John Corpus let his 10-year-old daughter, Kennedy, skip **her last day of fourth grade at Aldo Leopold Community School** to attend a packed town hall meeting where she could see the president of the United States up close.

But things turned out to be **more exciting** than either one of them imagined.

First, President Obama called on Corpus to ask a question about his plans for health care reform.

As Corpus asked the question he let drop that his daughter was skipping school to see the president.

Does she need a note? Obama asked.

Playing along, Corpus said he would take Obama up on the offer.

To his surprise, Obama was serious.

"What's her name," Obama asked, reaching in his suit pocket for a pen. When Corpus answered "John," Obama repeated: **"Her name?"**

"Kennedy," Corpus replied.

"That's a cool name," Obama said, as he started to compose the note.

"To Kennedy's teacher," read the note, written in black ink over the president's distinctive signature. **"Please excuse Kennedy's absence.... she's with me."**

In essence that is what Jesus says: Please excuse Rob's sin – He is with Me!

A) Satan is referred to in the Bible as the accuser of the brethren. Revelation 12:10 – He loves to bring accusation against us AND to our attention.

B) But in 1 John 2:1 – Jesus is referred to as our Advocate – our defense attorney.

C) Here is what is crazy – Jesus as our defense attorney is not trying to get us off on a technicality or simply prove reasonable doubt.

1) His defense is that Someone else has already been condemned and executed for that Sin – Crime – {Someone was Himself- 2,000 yrs ago @ Calvary.

D) Price has been paid for that sin – Past/present/future – Rob has been placed in Me – Covered in My righteousness – Judge – declares – Not guilty –

1) Not a pardon – not off this time – but I have my eye on you.

E) Justified – Just as if you never sinned –

#3 Starting point for transformation.

A) Declared righteous – but then Jesus places His Spirit in me to enable me to walk in righteousness.

B) When I fail – sin gets the better of me – I confess it – Yes – He is faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

1) Perpetual clean slate – Sins Past/Present/Future – covered by the Blood of Jesus –

NO CONDEMNATION

C) CONVICTION – YES – Rob sins – need to confess – turn from –

Conviction is always pulling us toward God

D) Condemnation is always PUSHING US – AWAY from God!

**NO condemnation because – Jesus was already
Condemned for that Sin**

A) Already executed on our behalf

**B) With Jesus we have the perfect blending of Justice
and Mercy.**

1) Great example – John Ch. 8 the woman caught in
the very act of Adultery

Turn and Rd V.1-11

So Jesus teaching in the temple courts – the religious
leaders bring this woman, throw her at His feet – say
This woman was caught in the very act of adultery
The law of Moses says stone her – what do you say

**Picture the setting – Jesus quietly teaching –
interrupted by an angry mob of men all holding
stones –**

A) Dragging a woman – she is naked except for the
bed sheet that covers her body

B) Hair is all messed up — she is embarrassed/ her
sin exposed for all to see

C) **She is afraid**- because the punishment for adultery
was death – it was a capital offense – Stoned to death

According to the **Jewish Mishnah** the adulterers
were placed knee deep in a box of manure.

A) Perhaps this was the origin of the expression
"knee deep in trouble".

B) After being placed in the box of manure the victim
was pelted with stones
1) until they slumped over into the slime.

D) After the **execution a tree was planted in the box of
manure** to stand in the city as a testimony to the
seriousness of adultery.

E) SO, a town with a lot of trees would be considered
a "**shady place**"... in more ways than one!

C) But just so pp would not go hog wild in executing
those accused of adultery –
1) there was a system of checks and balances to make
sure the punishment was not over played or abused

D) So the guilty party had to be caught by 2 or more
witnesses – and it had to be in the very act –
1) not just two pp leaving a room or a house or an inn –
the very act

2) The accusers who caught them **in the very act**
would be required to throw the first stones

**And that is the accusation they were bringing against
this lady – she was caught in the very act!**

A) But in reality this was a trap – because if they did
catch her in the very act – where was the man –

B) See this woman was **set up seduced** perhaps by one of their friends in order to trap Jesus

C) Jesus saw right through it

The quandary for Jesus was this:

A) If He said she should be stoned – according to the law of Moses – well, He would never again be referred to as the friend of sinners

B) Never again could He say that He did not come for the healthy but for the sick

1) Not come for the righteous but the unrighteous

C) On the other hand – if he were to say Excuse her – release her -

1) He would be claiming that the law of Moses was out of date and no longer valid and irrelevant

D) He could no longer claim that He came to fulfill the law of Moses

It is the same quandary that we face – there are relativist who claim – too uptight

A) Too straight laced – out of touch with society. The Bible is archaic

Aa) So do we hold to our moral integrity and condemn everyone who does not

B) And Risk being labeled by the post modern world as out of date and uptight and legalistic

C) Or do we simply **excuse behavior at the expense** of righteousness in hopes of having greater acceptance with those who are “sinners”

What does Jesus do?

A) The first thing He did was stoop down and write in the dirt –

B) Oh that I would be more like Jesus – quick to hear slow to speak and slow to wrath.

C) He was listening to the Father – listening to the Spirit.

What did He write ?

A) Not sure but by the reaction – I suggest – He wrote a name and a sin – a website, a bar name, a hotel room, - an illegal business deal

B) Said **He who is without sin can cast the first stone**

C) Brilliant approach – outcome – one by one starting from the oldest to the youngest – they dropped their stones and left

AWESOME:

A) Now understand Jesus was not negating or diminishing the law of Moses

B) But what He was doing was negating these religious leaders' qualification of being Judge Jury and executioner of the law of Moses

C) He was saying – You are disqualified from judging her.

1) He was saying – if you don't name your sins I will do it for you.

That my friends is the essence of Christianity:

A) If you say you are alright – Jesus condemns you

B) But if you say I am a wretch – I am condemned I need a savior Jesus says – you are alright

C) In other words here **is the ministry of Jesus to comfort the disturbed and to disturb the comfortable**

D) He disturbs the pious Rock throwing Pharisees –

1) He will do the same for you and me if we say – based on our performance if you say I am alright

We're told, **“And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.”**

A) I love this scene – she had been thrown to the ground – embarrassed condemned –

B) Sitting there in the dirt as this whole exchange is happening – **But now we see her raised up**

1) She is standing in the midst –

C) That is what Jesus seeks to do with sinners **Raise them up – New life – New Start - What a scene!**

10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman,

A) Gune – what Jesus called His mom – term of affection and endearment.

B) Loves sinners but HATES SIN – Went to the Cross because He loves Sinners and to pay the Penalty for Sin

C) So He said

Woman where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

Understand, there was only one person in the temple with the right to accuse this woman. {Judge Jury and Executioner

A) Only one sinless person was there that day. And that was Jesus... but Jesus said to her, **"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."** Wow!

B) Guys, Jesus gives this sinful woman and every other sinful man or woman like her, an opportunity to start over.

#4 Only Jesus can Make this Declaration! – NO CONDEMNATION

How could He do that ? Was He simply excusing Sin? Let's just look the other way on this one!

A)No He never does that – Cannot do that and be a Just judge!

B)So how could He say this? Simple –He knew what He was going to do in a very short time

C)He would be condemned for her – for you and for me –

D)Go! {forgiven – no condemnation – I do not condemn you}

Go and sin no more – Sanctification - Power now to walk in newness of life

#5 It is only in Jesus that we receive what is needed to live out this declaration.

Jesus offers the same thing to those today – trapped in Sin – Forgiveness/ restoration/ Justified

A)AND Power to walk in a newness of Life

B)It starts with Being placed in Christ

1)Sins forgiven / guilt removed – Justified – declared Righteous

C)Jesus took a stand for this woman – and for the rest of her life she will take a stand for Jesus!

D)She has tasted real love and she will never go back to the lusts of this world. *Today - I want to give you an opportunity to take a stand for Jesus...*

No condemnation – Question is – are you in Christ

A)If you are a believer – you need to embrace this truth

B)Believe it, stand on it – Accept it

C)Not a believer in Jesus – Embrace what He did for you today

Believe – Receive –