

Romans Chapter 8
Week 2, continue v. 1

Ro 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

What does it mean to be condemned for something?

<katakrima> an adverse sentence (the verdict)

To condemn – a judicial pronouncement stating what punishment has been imposed on a person found guilty of a crime, especially in the case of a heavy penalty or a death sentence. (Encarta English Dictionary)

To be condemned means we are guilty, which means there is evidence against us. What are we guilty of?

Disobedience – a fancy word for sin: refusal or failure to obey; syn – defiance, breaking the rules, insubordination, waywardness.

Gen 3:1-12 – SIN

What is the consequence? – DEATH

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are:

Punished – Gen 3:16-19

Banished from paradise – Gen 3:23-24

Born in sin – Ps 51:5

Born to trouble – Job 5:7

Cannot be just with God – Rom 3:20

- removed from His presence for eternity – spiritual death

What is the solution? -- CHRIST

What He did/does:

- took on the nature of man – John 1:14; Heb 2:14

- made in the image of man – Phil 2:7-8
- gave His life for man – John 10:19; Titus 2:14
- offers to man a relationship with God through His death and resurrection – 1 Tim 2:5

What does it mean to be *in Christ Jesus*?

In denotes a position.

Romans 8:1 in the KJV describes what it means to be in Christ Jesus by adding a coma after the phrase:

Rom 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.*

who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit--The evidence of manuscripts seems to show that this clause formed no part of the original text of this verse, but that the first part of it was early introduced, and the second later, from Ro 8:4, probably as an explanatory comment, and to make the transition to Ro 8:2 easier.

Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

However there is no condition for us to meet, rather it is a position we have in Christ. We are not looking at what we need to do to have no condemnation; we are looking at what it means to be in Christ, the blessings and assurance we find in Him.

Those who are in Christ Jesus are occupied or have a mindset that is on God – on spiritual things – rather than on selfish desires and earthly things.

Have you ever fixated on someone or something?

To fixate: 1. to focus exclusively on something; 2. to obsess or preoccupy; syn. absorbed, engrossed, fanatical

Think! What is the character of your walk with Christ? Explain the difference of walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit using an example from your life. What do others see in your life – the old or the new nature? Do they see the allowance of corruption or the workings of

God's grace? What governs your thoughts/actions/words and decisions?

In order to be *in Christ* we must believe in Him and His work on the cross – the payment for our sin – and His resurrection from death – His power to squash sin.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

What does it mean to believe?

Believe <pisteuo> to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), to entrust one's spiritual well-being to Christ

Faith: 1. belief or trust, especially without logical proof; syn: confidence, reliance, assurance, conviction

He [Paul] does not say,
"There is no accusation against them,"
for this there is; but the accusation is thrown out, and the indictment quashed. He does not say,
"There is nothing in them that deserves condemnation,"
for this there is, and they see it, and own it, and mourn over it, and condemn themselves for it; but it shall not be their ruin. He does not say,
"There is no cross, no affliction to them or no displeasure in the affliction,"
for this there may be; but no condemnation. They may be chastened of the Lord, but not condemned with the world. Now this arises from their *being in Christ Jesus; by virtue of their union with him through faith they are thus secured.* Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible (emphasis mine)

We looked at what it means to be condemned and the result of condemnation. **But, according to the scriptures, what does it mean to have no condemnation?**

Ps 32:1 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered!

Rom 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Isa 54:17 "No weapon that is formed against you shall prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD.

To be *in* Christ means we have a union with Him. We are joined together with Christ which is the opposite of being separated from Him.

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither [can] you, unless you abide in Me.

How would you explain the word 'abide'? To "abide" in means to live or to dwell in.

1 Cor 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, [he is] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Looking at the scriptures above, what is available to us when we abide in Christ? Wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, life, rebirth from an old self to a new self

Application Questions
Romans Chapter 8 – week 2

Read through chapter 8 then consider how God would have you apply His truth as you answer the questions below. Your '*Apply It*' bookmark is a useful tool for personal application – be sure to keep it near-by!

Look up and read Genesis 3:1-12. Jot down a quick sequence of what happened – what each decision led to and the consequence.

What is the only solution for our sin?

Romans 8:1 speaks of being *in Christ Jesus*. How is abiding in Christ different than having knowledge of Him?

When are you most likely to lose your focus and walk in the flesh? What can you do to be prepared so that this doesn't happen frequently?

What helps you to walk in the Spirit? Can you apply what does work in those times when you are drawn away? Formulate a plan that will help you to be more mindful of pleasing God with your thoughts/actions/words.

Read John 3:18. How would you use this verse to encourage someone who thinks they are too sinful to bow before God?

Read John 5:24. Look up the word believe in a dictionary. Write down the definition.

Now look up the word faith and write down the definition.

Look up the following verses and make a list of what it means to 'have no condemnation'.

Ps 32:1

Rom 5:1

Isa 54:17