



7/4/25

Happy 4th of July. I'm so thankful we live in a country where we are still free to worship our God.

In case you want some extra listening time during your holiday, here is the link to our latest Chosen and Cherish podcast... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Have a wonderful holiday!
Jonna*

Romans 8:1-4

I am so excited to be studying Romans 8 verse by verse over the summer. This is one of the most impactful chapters of scripture to my soul. It starts out with a bang of massive hope for my despair heart that struggles with believing God loves me and doesn't condemn me. It's all written there in black and white. It is God's covenant with me. He will NOT break His covenant.

Vs. 1 ~ "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

There is THEREFORE now no condemnation. What's the therefore there for? In chapter 7, Paul had just been speaking of his frustration over his own "body of death" that has no power over his own sin. Like Paul, the hardest enemy for me to overcome is not the enemy outside... but the enemy of own flesh! My flesh always tries to lead me to give in to my selfish desires that draw me away from God. Paul said, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? THANKS BE TO GOD through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!" I have no power over my body of death, but God does!!!

Therefore... God does NOT condemn me. Not now, not ever. He does not sit in judgment of me. He does not resent me. How is that possible when God KNOWS that I continue to struggle with obedience to Him this side of heaven???

Vs. 2 ~ It is the supernatural work of the Spirit. "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you

free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

A new law has come through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This law is more powerful and legally binding than the old law. It is the law of the Spirit of life... this Greek word for life is "zoe." It means both physical and spiritual, eternal life. This is the more powerful law the Spirit brings because He is eternal. And contrary to what my flesh, the world, and the devil want me to believe, the spiritual is more real, more lasting, more beautiful, more powerful than the "psuche" life, the physical.

By the law of the Spirit of life who dwells in me as a guarantee that I have this eternal life with God, I am set free from the law of sin and death. Sin and death have lost their sting in my life... not because of anything I have done, but because of Jesus.

Vs. 3-4 ~ "For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

For GOD has done it. God the Father sent His Son to be the replacement payment for my sin because I was under the condemnation of the law of sin and death. I was born into sin. It was in my DNA. I was the walking dead. I could not be my own hero. God knew from the beginning that the only way to save me was to send His Son Jesus to be my replacement payment because no amount of money or anything I had would be enough.

Do I believe that??? How will I live if I do? Soldiers on the battlefield become so devoted to other soldiers who sacrifice their own safety for theirs that they will do anything for them for the rest of their lives. And that's just for physical rescue. God has rescued me from eternal punishment by sacrificing His own Son. Jesus willingly gave up His life for me.

Even the law of Moses, given by God, could not save me because my own flesh weakened its power.

Those who live in the flesh by self rule say, "I don't need the law. I'm master of my destiny. I will live for control." And without Christ, they are condemned.

Those who live in the flesh by self indulgence say, "I don't want the law. It's too constricting. I will live for pleasure." And without Christ, they are condemned.

Those who live in the flesh for self protection say, "I don't trust the law. I have to protect myself. I will live for security in myself." And without Christ, they are condemned.

Those who live in the flesh for self pity say, "There's no hope. I'm already condemned by the law. I will live for whatever gives me comfort." And without Christ, they are condemned.

But that is NOT the life we have to live! God sent His own Son Jesus to do what we could not do. The righteous requirement of the law HAD TO BE FULFILLED in anyone who wanted to be set free from the law of sin and death. No righteousness of my own... no earning of approval by my own sacrifice or works or any other means could give me the requirement needed in order to be freed from condemnation.

So Jesus stepped down from His throne... emptied Himself of His glory and majesty... and came in the likeness of sinful flesh and FOR sin. Because I couldn't be restored to the image of God that was corrupted in the Garden of Eden, Jesus came in the appearance of the corrupted image of man so that He could condemn, not me, but sin... and take away its power over me. Wow!!! And now, He is restoring me to the perfect, holy, joyful, peaceful, content image He intended for me from before time began.

Through Jesus, the requirement of the law that demanded perfect righteousness... perfect approval... was fulfilled in me through Jesus.

Let me not miss this! God did not just do this to give me a "get out of jail free" card. He did this to make it possible for me to walk according to the Spirit... His law of life... and not according to the flesh... which brings sin and death.

How do I respond to this? Worship Him for His incredible gift that calls me to restoration and relationship. And then walk by the Spirit so that I will not gratify the desires of my flesh that still scream for the lie. The Spirit will be with me and help me. He will lead me into truth. He will restore me by transforming me one degree of glory to the next. O Lord, here I am. Please help me to humble myself before You in gratitude. Praise You, Father for Your plan to send Jesus. Praise You, Jesus, for being the payment I could not pay. Praise You, Spirit, for being the power who works in me so that I can walk in the newness of eternal life. To God, not me, be the glory! Amen.