

Introduction Slide 1: Living In the Freedom of No Condemnation

Slide 2: Image Judge and Gavel

Today we step into one of the most liberating truths in all of Scripture - Romans 8:1:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Just ten words, yet they carry the weight of eternity. This verse isn't just theology—it's oxygen for the soul. It's the declaration that the guilt, shame, and fear that once defined believers have been silenced by the cross of Christ.

But what does it mean to truly live in that declaration? Not just know it intellectually, but walk in it daily—when we fail, when we doubt, when we feel unworthy.

For Christians today, this isn't a distant promise. It's a present reality. No condemnation means we're not defined by our past, not disqualified by our weakness, and not distanced from God's love.

So let's explore what it looks like to live boldly, joyfully, and confidently in the freedom Christ has secured. **Because if we're in Him, we're not just forgiven—we're free.**

I'm sure you've heard many times people testify they have a favourite chapter or verse in the Bible. How about you? Do you have a chapter or verse that is so special to you, that if you could only choose one, what would be the one that you would choose?

If you were shipwrecked on a desert island, and couldn't take any book with you except the Bible and you could only take with you one chapter of the Bible, what chapter would you choose?

Slide 3: Romans 8 – The Mountain Peak of Scripture

Romans 8 is regarded by many Christians as the greatest chapter of all the Bible. In fact, if you read the commentaries on Romans, chapter 8 is described as **“the mountain peak”** of Scripture and “the chapter of chapters for the Christian believer.”

Many regard the book of Romans as the greatest book in the New Testament. It's one book that generations of believers have come to know and love, and preachers love to preach from.

Arguably, Romans chapter 8 is regarded as the greatest chapter of the greatest book of the Bible, which itself is the greatest book ever written in the history of the world.

Now there are several reasons for making an observation like that. **Number one**, Romans 8 is uniquely the chapter of the Holy Spirit where the Holy Spirit is mentioned no less than 19 different times. No other chapter in the New Testament contains as many direct references to the Holy Spirit.

Two, it's preeminently the chapter of Christian assurance.

Slide 4: “No Condemnation” And “No Separation.”

Romans 8 begins with “**no condemnation**” and ends with “**no separation.**” You start with **no condemnation**, you end with **no separation**, and in between you find no defeat.

So it’s no exaggeration to say that we’re standing on holy ground this morning as we approach the powerful words of this famous text.

With a single Spirit-breathed sentence, Paul utters some of the greatest words in the N.T.

In order that we might feel the power of his words, here again is the first verse of Romans 8:

Slide 5: “There Is Therefore Now No Condemnation for Those Who Are in Christ Jesus”

Paul begins Romans 8 with a thunderclap of grace: “*There is therefore now no condemnation.*” This is not a future hope — it’s a present reality. The word “**now**” is crucial. It means that at this very moment, every genuine born again believer, stands fully acquitted before God.

- No condemnation means no guilt, no penalty, no eternal judgment.

- The courtroom of heaven has issued its final verdict: “Not guilty.”

Slide: 6 Image with judge and gavel, prisoner in dock, saying “Not Guilty”

It means no condemnation for your past, no condemnation in your present struggles, and no hidden condemnation waiting in your future. **Shame loses its voice; fear loses its leverage.**

Romans 8:1–5 is not just theological—it’s deeply personal. It invites us to live in the freedom Christ purchased on the Cross and the power the Spirit provides.

Every human life is lived under a verdict—spoken or unspoken, from others or from the voice within.

For some it’s the fear of not measuring up; for others it’s the memory of failures that refuse to stay in the past and keep rolling around in our heads.

But the gospel of Jesus Christ offers something qualitatively different: not a technique, but a verdict from the supreme court of heaven. **Not Guilty.**

Romans 8 opens like a blazing sunrise after a long hard dark night:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1).

With a single Spirit-breathed sentence, Paul utters some of the greatest words in the New Testament.

This text is not just **information** for 21st century believers; **it is liberation.**

Slide 7: Not “Less Condemnation,” Not “A Temporary Reprieve,” But None. (Romans 8:1)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1).

We’re not being told **to feel** un-condemned; **we are being declared un-condemned** because of what God has already done in Christ.

Paul is saying that the entire weight of our sin's penalty has been decisively adjudicated.

Not Someday—Now

“Now” means this is the present reality for anyone united to Christ by faith. When you woke up this morning, before you managed a single prayer, for all those in Christ, no condemnation already covered you like the sky covers the earth.

This is not something fragile. It does not expire when you stumble. It's not recalculated every night.

Slide 8: “For Those Who Are in Christ Jesus”

Paul does not say “this applies only to those who have achieved a high level of spiritual consistency” or “for those who never fail.” He says, “for **all those** who are in Christ Jesus.”

To be “in Christ” is to have a new address, a new life and sense of purpose. **Jesus' cross is our receipt**

Often we make the mistake of thinking that the gospel is simply what we believe in order to be saved. We hear it, we believe it, and we are born again.

Though we wouldn't say it this way, we often act like that gospel has no further relevance to us.

It gets us ‘in the door,’ so to speak with divine life insurance, but it's not part of our daily life.

How to we fit all this together? It begins by accepting that what God says about believers is true. If He says “**Not condemned**,” then believers are truly not condemned. That means nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. **Not even our own foolish and repeated mistakes.**

Life is a mixture of failure and success. **We aren't the best judges of where we stand spiritually.** On our good days, we're not as hot as we think we are. On our bad days, we're not as yucky as we think we are.

Life is always a mixture of success and failure. We get a little success to give us hope and a little failure to teach us humility and to develop our trust in God.

Romans 8:1 is the foundation of all spiritual progress. All of us need the constant reminder that in Christ we are eternally and always “**not condemned**” by God.

What do we discover when we move from the last part of Romans 7 to the first part of Romans 8? It outlines for us a number of great truths about our Christian experience.

Slide 9: There Is a Struggle In the Christian Life

That sentence summarizes Romans 7:14-25 which we looked at last week.

It told us we struggle in many different ways.

We struggle between what we know and what we actually do.

We struggle between our better desires and our lesser desires.

We struggle between what we know God wants us to do and what we would rather do if God would just leave us alone.

We struggle all the time, torn this way and that way. That's part of what it means to live in this sinful world. **But praise God,**

Slide 10: That Struggle Is Without Condemnation

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

You might translate it this way: "There is no condemnation—**none whatsoever**—for the believer in Christ Jesus."

Let me see if I can explain what it doesn't mean. Then I'll try to tell you what I think it does mean. Paul is not saying there is therefore now - **no cause** - for condemnation. **That wouldn't be true.** You fail and I fail. You stumble and I stumble. You fall and I fall. You get off the path and so do I.

All of us are only too well aware that when God looks down from heaven, that moment by moment, He finds plenty of cause for condemnation.

Is Paul saying, "There is therefore now no failure for those who are in Christ Jesus?" **No.**

Is he saying, "There is, therefore now no struggle for those who are in Christ Jesus?" **No.**

Is he saying, "There is, therefore now, no stumbling for those who are in Christ Jesus?" **No.**

He is saying there is therefore now no condemnation, no coming into judgment, for the follower of Jesus Christ.

Friends, here's the astounding truth of what that means.

We may stumble, we may fall, we may trip, we may make a thousand mistakes, we may sin and we do, we may get off the path, we may go astray, we may have a thousand problems.

You can struggle, but you're not condemned.

You can fall, but you're not condemned.

You can trip, but you're not condemned.

You can stray off the path, but you are not condemned because God has said He will not condemn those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the believer in Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation because God has said it is so, and you can take that to the bank for God cannot lie.

When Jesus saved us, he didn't say he would take away all our problems. **But he did say this.**

In your problems, there is no condemnation.

In your struggles, there is no condemnation.

In your failure, there is no condemnation.

In your going astray, there is no condemnation.

God is not going to reject us just because we struggle at times.

Most of us know the moving story of the Prodigal Son. He was in his father's house and went off to the far country.

There he gave himself to riotous living, spent all his inheritance, and ended up in the pig pen. **He hit rock bottom. He blew everything.** The son who had it all went from top to bottom. He left his family, squandered his inheritance and ended up living with the pigs.

Dr. Vernon McGee asked, "What is the difference between a pig and a man in a pig pen?"

The answer!

The pig just keeps on eating the husks. But after a while, the man says 'I will arise and go to my father.'

God already knows everything we've done. Nothing is hidden from Him.

Where was the father when the son returned home? **Not in the house.** He was out on the road coming to meet his beloved son. It's a picture of our experience as believers.

Slide 11: There Is No Rejection for Those Who Are in Christ Jesus

Even those who wander, even those who stray, even those who have been living for a long time in the far country and are embarrassed because they have squandered the spiritual inheritance of God's kingdom.

Remember, God already knows everything we've done and everything we've ever dreamed of doing. **He loves us anyway with an everlasting love. We're still in His family.**

The moment you say, "*I will arise and go to my father,*" in that very moment He will say, "Kill the fatted calf. Let's have a party. My son who was lost has been found. He was away, but now he's come home."

It's true that sometimes our sin separates us from a close walk with God, **but it cannot reverse the divine proclamation of "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."**

It's hard for us to believe that God really loves us especially when we take a good look in the mirror.

Most of us have moments when we look at ourselves and say, "There is plenty of condemnation for you, buster!"

But that is not what God says.

God says, "*No condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*"

Here's where the rubber meets the road!

Slide 12: Are We Willing to Believe What God Has Said?

We sometimes sing the beloved invitation hymn that goes like this:

Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe,

Sin had left a crimson stain,

He washed it white as snow.

Do we believe what we sing?

Do we believe that Jesus really paid it all?

If so, there can be no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Charles Spurgeon says it quite simply:

“If our debt was paid, it was paid, and there is an end of it; a second payment cannot be demanded.”

That's what God does when we fail. He helps us back up, he tells us where we went wrong, and he puts us back in the game.

That's what Paul means when he says there is no condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ.

Yes, there are times when He corrects us, but even His discipline flows from love and is designed for our good. His correction, is ultimately for our blessing and our growth.

I don't know of any truth more important, more satisfying, or more liberating than the great truth that for those who know Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation.

Why? Because Jesus paid it all.

Why? Because our sins are gone.

Why? Because Jesus condemned sin by his death on the cross.

If he condemned sin by his death on the cross, God will never condemn you.

The devil condemns us day and night and whispers in our ear, “Condemned! Condemned!”

God says, “No condemnation!”

Who are you going to believe? The devil or God?

You'll have to make up your own mind, but I'm going to believe what God has said.

I can't think of a better, more encouraging spiritual truth that I could share with you today than these great words from Romans 8.

For those who are in Christ Jesus, **now, today**, not tomorrow, not next week, not next year, but NOW, there is no condemnation.

It means that for those united to Christ by faith, the penalty of sin—eternal separation from God, divine wrath, and spiritual death—has been fully and finally removed.

The gavel has come down, and the verdict is “not guilty.” That’s the heart of justification.

But that doesn’t mean believers are exempt from earthly consequences of sin.

Slide 13: What About Consequences?

Does “no condemnation” mean “no consequences”? **No**. A believer may face earthly consequences for sin and loving discipline from the Father (Hebrews 12).

Slide 14: Consequences Still Exist

Think of it this way:

- Consequences are about your walk in the world—those still matter, because sin still damages.
- **Natural consequences:** If a believer lies, cheats, or harms someone, they will face broken relationships, loss of trust, or even legal repercussions.

Folks, the gavel has fallen in our favour because it fell on Christ in your place. You are free—free from condemnation, free for holiness, free to love, free to hope. So breathe the new air. Set your mind on the Spirit.

Step out of the dock and into a life of purpose and commitment to Jesus.

And when the accuser whisper in your ears, take him back to the courtroom of Calvary and answer with the first words of Romans 8, not as wishful thinking but as settled truth:

The gavel has already fallen. The record is cleared.

Slide 15: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

Slide 16: Closing Image The Verdict Has Been Rendered

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the powerful truth we’ve received today—that in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation. **What a gift, what a freedom, what a grace.** Lord, help us not just to hear these words, but to live them. Let this truth sink deep into our hearts and shape the way we walk, speak, and love.

For every burden of guilt, we lay it down. For every shadow of shame, we step into Your light. And for every voice that tells us we’re not enough, we cling to Your Word that says we are redeemed, restored, and fully accepted.

Holy Spirit, empower us to walk boldly in this freedom—not as people trying to earn Your love, but as sons and daughters who already have it. May our lives reflect the joy and peace that come from knowing we are no longer condemned, but completely covered by Your mercy.

As we go from this place, let us carry this message into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. Let others see the freedom we've found in You—and be drawn to the same grace that has set us free.

In the name of Jesus, our Saviour and our freedom, we pray.

Amen.