

NO CONDEMNATION!

Amazing Love! How Can It Be?

Exposition of Romans, XXVI

Romans 8:1-4

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INTRODUCTION

I. BELIEVERS NEED NEVER FEAR CONDEMNATION ~ 8:1

For Further Study: Zechariah 3:1-5; Hebrews 10:1-18; Revelation 12:10-11

II. BELIEVERS ARE SET FREE BY THE SPIRIT FROM SIN AND DEATH TO LIFE IN THE CHRIST ~ 8:2

For Further Study: John 3:6-7; 6:63; Ephesians 1:18-20

III. BELIEVERS RECEIVE FROM GOD WHAT THEY COULD NOT DO FOR THEMSELVES ~ 8:3-4a

For Further Study: Galatians 5:1; 22-23; Ephesians 2:8-10

CONCLUSION

Because this [Romans 8:1] is true of him, the Christian should never feel condemnation; he should never allow himself to feel it....if we are Christians, your sins and mine--past sins, present sins, and future sins- -have already been dealt with once and forever! Had you realized that? Most of our troubles are due to our failure to realize the truth of this verse....

We can put it in the form of an illustration. The difference between an unbeliever sinning and a Christian sinning is the difference between a man transgressing the laws of...any State, and a husband who has done something he should not do in his relationship with his wife. He is not breaking the law, he is wounding the heart of his wife. That is the difference. It is not a legal matter, it is a matter of personal relationship and...love. The man does not cease to be the husband [legally in that instance]. Law does not come into the matter at all...In a sense it is now something much worse than a legal condemnation. I would rather offend against a law of the land objectively outside me, than hurt someone whom I love....You have sinned, of course, but you have sinned against love....You may and you should feel ashamed, but you should not feel condemnation, because to do so is to put yourself back 'under the law'....

D. M. LLOYD-JONES

We are set free from the law as a way of acceptance, but obliged to keep it as a way of holiness. It is as a ground of justification that the law no longer binds us....But as a standard of conduct the law is still binding, and we seek to fulfill it as we walk in the Spirit.

JOHN R.W. STOTT