

# No condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

By Abri Brancken, 9 Jul 2017

## SCRIPTURE READING

### ROMANS 8:1-4

**1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**

## INTRODUCTION

Your spirit man can only truly be alive in Christ. The world is filled with people, but not all of them are truly alive. Most people live their lives according to the flesh. They live for what they see, hear, touch, feel, instead of living for the LORD. They live for their own please and happiness instead of considering the purposes of the LORD. Humanity is held captive in the power of sin and death and according to the Bible, release from spiritual captivity can only be found one place, Jesus Christ.

Only Christ has the power in this universe to set humanity free from the bondage of sin. We cannot do it ourselves. God's desire is for people to serve and worship Him, but mankind needs to be set free in order to worship God. We see this demonstrated in the narrative where the Hebrews had to leave Egypt (captivity) in order to serve God.

## EGYPT, A PICTURE OF CAPTIVITY AND SIN

### **Exodus 8:1**

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me.

Egypt is a type or picture of the "worldly system" and of sin. It represents captivity and bondage and to be released from it God had to send a deliverer, Moses, to lead them out of bondage and to the promised land. Moses is a foreshadow of Christ. In a similar way, humanity is held captive by the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2) and a deliverer is needed to set us free from this captivity where we live according to the flesh. In the flesh, you cannot connect with God. God is spirit and therefore your spirit needs to connect with God. If you live for the flesh under the bondage of sin, you cannot truly worship God. "Spiritual Egypt" will keep you in bondage until you choose to follow the Deliverer, Jesus.

The works of the flesh cannot please God and therefore we must walk in the Spirit. In Galatians chapter 5 Paul lists the works of the flesh.

### **Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)**

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21

envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

#### **John 4:24**

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NKJV)

## **WE HAVE A KINGDOM AGENDA**

The changed (born again) man or woman are concerned with the things of the Kingdom. Their speech, conduct, actions, etc. will reflect a Kingdom agenda. The born-again believer is more concerned about walking in the spirit than the material. The direction of your life and your actions is concerned with God's agenda not your own and therefore you are not under condemnation.

#### **Romans 8:3-4**

...And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

#### **John 3:18**

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Those we reject God's way of salvation through Christ is spiritually "lost" and in the realm of the "dead" already, even while alive in the flesh. Not everybody is in Christ. But, we as believers partake of a different reality.

This admirable chapter (Rom 8) has been called the chapter beginning with no condemnation and ending with no separation.

#### **Romans 8:38-39**

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let's take a look at Romans 8:1 and I want to highlight 2 important points.

## **1. NO CONDEMNATION**

#### **Romans 8:1a**

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

The gift is "no condemnation." The first effect of being in Christ is that there is no more condemnation.

The condemnation we had when we were in sin is removed in Christ. Those who enjoy the gift are only those who are in Christ Jesus. "No Condemnation" means that the verdict

against us is a verdict of not guilty, if you are in Christ Jesus. We don't receive a damnatory sentence from the Judge of the universe. It is implied here that there was condemnation under the Law, and would be still, but for the intervention of the gospel. There is no more condemnation for the believer because Christ Jesus bore the condemnation we deserved, and our identity is now found in Him. As He is condemned no more, neither are we.

The simple declaration of no condemnation comes to those who are in Christ Jesus. Since the Father does not condemn Jesus, neither can He condemn those are in Him. They are not condemned, they will not be condemned, and they cannot be condemned. In Christ we become the legal, justifiable ones. Sin, the cause of condemnation, is removed; Christ has bore the condemnation their sins deserved in himself; their justification is from all sin, past, present, and to come

Condemnation leads to fear, which leads to stress, which leads to bad fruit being produced in our lives, e.g. marriage problems, sickness, poverty, etc.

## **WE HAVE A NEW LIFE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

### **1 Peter 2:24**

He took our sins on himself, giving his body to be nailed on the tree, so that we, being dead to sin, might have a new life in righteousness, and by his wounds we have been made well.

### **Luke 2:9-11**

Just then, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!...

We let our life and circumstances determine who we are instead of what He has been through become who we are. We allow our lives to define us instead of finding our new identity in Him. Paul found his identity in Christ. He no longer lived for himself, but for Christ.

### **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. We are as good as the things that He went through because we are in Him. It is all about HIM!!

We don't get up trying not to fail. Instead we get up enjoying that He succeeded in dealing with sin.

We don't live in denial about challenges, but we don't allow our lives to define us if the truth about us is in Him.

Unless we believe and live what God has declared us to be, we will never be empowered to do what God has called us to do.

## **2. FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS**

### **Romans 8:1**

**“...for those who are in Christ Jesus”**

IMPORTANT: Our position in Jesus is the reason for our standing of no condemnation.

The union between Christ and his people is compared to that between the vine and its branches John 15:1-6, and hence, believers are said to be in him in a similar sense, as deriving their support from him, and as united in feeling, in purpose, and destiny.

### **John 15:4-5**

4 Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. Just as no branch can bear fruit by itself unless it remains in the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. 5 I am the vine and you are the branches. The one who remains in Me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. For apart from Me you can do nothing....

See yourself as alive to God & dead to sin.