



Romans 8:1-4

SALT Church

November 30, 2025

“God did what the law could not do”

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

David and Cindy

Last week we were reminded:

- **Paul was:**
 - A converted man who was truly saved,
 - justified,
 - born again,
 - indwelt by the Holy Spirit,
 - but who also lived with remaining corruption
 - and indwelling sin
 - and the struggle with the flesh.

So, it is with every Christian until we take our last breaths here on earth.

We closed last week with Romans 8:1-2

8 So **now** there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. ² And because you belong to him, the power of the

life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

- **Powerful words that are very much needed by every Christian that is at war with our sin.**

Let's take a closer look @ verses 1 & 2:

*8 So **now** there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.*

- Can there be any more beautiful words for the child of God?
 - We are forgiven of all sins, (**past, present, & future**)
 - We have been given access to the Father, meaning we are counted as one of His own.
 - **He is not mad at us.**
 - **We are not His enemy**
 - In a weird way **we look forward** to our death because we will finally be set free from sin
 - **We look forward** to our death because finally we will be with Him forever.
 - All of this made possible by Jesus, His death and resurrection.

There is a key word here that we must see is the little word “now.”

Original Word: nun

Pronunciation: noon (in the Greek)

KJV: henceforth, + hereafter, of late, soon, present

NASB: now, present, actually, just now, since this time

“right now”

Why is it so important that we understand this little word?

- It is a very important word because of the implication.
 - “Now or right now” means this is not a future event.
 - “Now” means that it is not dependent on, or conditional.
- So, “now” there is no condemnation.
 - Condemnation (in this case) is motivated by God’s wrath.
 - It is motivated by the holy wrath of God because someone has broken the law.
 - What is Paul saying?
 - Is Paul saying that there is no discipline for the child of God?
 - NO!
 - Discipline is motivated by love.
 - Condemnation is motivated by wrath.
 - Let me give you an example.

I want you to imagine that you are on trial for a capital offense.

- **The judge has absolute authority over your life.**
- He also has a complete and truthful evaluation of your life.
 - Your thoughts
 - Your actions
 - Your motives for everything that you have ever done.
 - If the judge finds you guilty, you will be sentenced to the most painful death that could ever be imagined.

- If you are not condemned, you will be set free and never again charged of this crime.

Now, imagine the judge does something really strange:

- **Imagine** he post-pones the trial.
- **Imagine** he assigns you to a parole officer who will account for your every move, thought, and motivation.
- **Imagine** he tells you that your trial will be postponed until the end of your life and if your life shows a complete change, he will find you “not guilty.”
 - *If you prove yourself*, you will be forgiven, and all charges dropped and expunged from your record.
 - *But if you slip up one time*, just once, you will be condemned and sentenced to death.
 - You know how this ends don't you?
 - Fear of death is a great motivator but even the strongest of minds cannot overcome the corruption of the sinful heart.

Now, I want you to imagine the same judge with the same authority and knowledge of you.

- Like before this judge has absolute authority over your life.
- He also has a complete and truthful evaluation of your life.
 - Your thoughts
 - Your actions
 - Your motives for everything that you have ever done.

The judge looks at your life and says:

- Because you have confessed your sins
- Because you have turned from your wicked ways
- Because my son has paid the penalty for your offense
- And because you have submitted to His Lordship over your life
 - I am NOW acquitting you for your crimes.
 - **So now (right now) there is no condemnation for you because you belong to my Son.**
 - **Go and live your life in such a way that glorifies what the Judge and His son has done for you.**

What's your point Pastor?

- 2 things:
 - 1st the persons motivation is different.
 - The 1st motivated by fear and will work hard to try to not mess up **but will fail.**
 - **The 2nd will be motivated by love, grace, and mercy.**
 - The 2nd will experience instant relief and as a result their life will be changed.
 - The 2nd will also fail but will be reminded that there is no condemnation because his penalty has been paid.
 - This is the power of the little word "**NOW.**"

Chapter 7 reminded us of our struggle with sin.

- Until we take our last breath **we will struggle with sin.**
 - This is how we know that the 1st person will fail.

Chapter 8, however, changes everything for those who belong to Christ.

- Now

- Right Now

- Instantly

- ***There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ.***

- This changes how we see our lives

- ***We no longer see Christ forgiveness as a license to sin*** but rather His forgiveness as motivation to not sin.

- ***This is the point of Romans 8.***

8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

²And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

- ***This is a very important sentence.***

- We are free from the power of sin that leads to death because of the life-giving power that comes from The Holy Spirit.

The Greek reads like this:

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.”

- What does this mean?

- It doesn't mean that we are sinless or that we won't struggle with sin.
- ***It means that something happened*** the day we became children of God.
- **It means** through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been set free from the condemning Law.
- **It means** **we now have** what we need to have victory over sin.
- **It means** that the sting of death is no longer a fear, **but in a very real and strange way death is the final victory over sin for us.**

It means that there is a very important theological principle that must be seen. (Pay attention)

- ***Justification must come before sanctification***

- In other words, you don't come to Jesus after you have cleaned yourself up.
- You come to Jesus so that you can be cleaned up.
 - ***You don't wash a car before you go to the carwash.***
 - You take a dirty car to the carwash, that's the whole point.

You come to Jesus.

- You confess and turn away from your sin. (**any sin**)
 - ***The only sin that you cannot be forgiven of is any sin that you are not willing to confess.***

- **Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is to reject the Holy Spirit's message that the only way to be forgiven is through Jesus Christ.**

- Therefore, if you reject that message, you reject the ability to be forgiven.
 - That is why it is unforgivable.

The Holy Spirit has set us free from the power of sin because of what Jesus has done!

Back to Romans

8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

² And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

³ The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature.

- I love the way Paul says this.
 - The issue with the Law ***was not the Law*** but our sinful nature.
 - ***Think about it.***
 - ***No one in Heaven*** is struggling to keep the Law.
 - ***No one in Heaven*** is struggling with sin.
 - They keep the Law without effort, without struggle but how?

- ***They have a new nature.***
- **A new nature** that we received the day we became a child of God.
- **A new nature** that is in process
- **A new nature** that is maturing with every trial and difficulty.
- **A new nature** that is in the present, (In the now)
 - One that will be complete when we crossover from this life into the next.

³ The law of Moses was **unable** to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature.

So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have.

- There is so much packed into this sentence.
- The sovereignty that is expressed in the sentence is amazing to me.
- God's plan from the beginning was to send His Son to die for those who would be called His own.
 - **Jesus, motivated by His love for the Father (and motivated for the Fathers glory) *happily agreed to come***, live a sinless life, be murdered and die on a cross, to be resurrected as proof that His sacrifice had been accepted by the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit agreed to come and ***be rejected along with Christ by most***, **but for the few that would receive Him, He would agree to seal until the day of redemption.**

- *We must understand that God the Father was the “sending one”.*
 - He desired to save us from ourselves, our sin, death, and eternal separation.
 - ***My point*** is that God the Father is too often portrayed as the angry big man upstairs.
 - He is not!
 - Jesus said that if you have seen Him, you have Seen the Father.
 - Jesus said that He and the Father are one.

In the end, Paul through the power of the Holy Spirit wanted us to know that God the Father initiated our salvation.

- It was His plan
- ***His sovereign idea.***

So, God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have.

And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Why did it have to be that way?

- God can do anything right?
 - Well, no He can’t...
 - He cannot sin

- He cannot violate His own word, that would make Him a liar.

Why would God create a world in which He knew would fall into sin and need to be saved?

- ***I don't know but I will tell you what I do know.***
 - It was the sin of pride that caused 1/3 of all the angels to fall and follow Satan.
 - It is sin that causes ***every awful thing*** in the world.
 - Every murder
 - Rape
 - War
 - Suicide
 - Theft
 - Lie
 - Divorce
 - Fight
 - Name you favorite sin...
 - All a result of sin

I also know that I never understood the danger of fire until I got burned.

- Perhaps creating mindless robots was never an option for the Father.
- Perhaps understanding the devastating power of sin only comes through experiencing a world in which sin rules the day.
 - Perhaps being saved from that devastating sin is the only way we could truly understand the depts of His love.

- Perhaps He will tell us when we enter into Heaven.

Back to Romans 8:4

4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us,

What is the just requirement of the Law?

- ***Why does it have to be satisfied?***
 - Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death”
 - Hebrews 9:22 “Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness”

Even the Old Testament taught us these facts.

Lev. 17:11 (this is God talking to His people)

11 for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.

- From the beginning, this was the plan.
 - ***It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.***
 - ***It is a very difficult but necessary lesson to learn.***

Back to Romans 8:4

4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

- *This sentence reveals a very important truth that most Church members and those who claim Christ overlook.*
 - *“who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.”*
- Perhaps the reason we must learn this most difficult lesson about sin and its devastating effects is to reveal what God really desires and who truly belongs to Him.
 - *What are you trying to say Pastor?*

I am trying to say is this:

- I do not believe for one second that God takes joy in all this bloodshed.
 - In fact, I believe it causes frustration for Him (the source of frustration is unmet expectation)
 - *Why would you say that, Pastor?*

God has a different expectation than most men have:

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Ezekiel 33:11

As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?

Listen to the frustration in Isaiah 1

Isaiah 1:11-20

¹¹“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?”

Says the Lord.

“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams

And the fat of fed cattle.

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,

Or of lambs or goats.

¹² “When you come to appear before Me,

Who has required this from your hand,

To trample My courts?

¹³ Bring no more futile sacrifices;

Incense is an abomination to Me.

The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—

I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

¹⁴ Your New Moons and your appointed feasts

My soul hates;

They are a trouble to Me,

I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you spread out your hands,

I will hide My eyes from you;

Even though you make many prayers,

I will not hear.

Your hands are full of blood.

(Here comes the expectation)

¹⁶ “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;

Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes.

*Cease to do evil,
17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Rebuke the oppressor;
Defend the fatherless,
Plead for the widow.*

*18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the Lord,
“Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.*

*19 If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land;
20 But if you refuse and rebel,
You shall be devoured by the sword”;
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

What is the greatest form of worship class?

- **Obedience!**

*So what does God mean when He says “**who no longer follow
our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.**”*

- Following the Holy Spirit leads to obedience
- Obedience is better than sacrifice!

One more example from Samuel

- *Talking to a disobedient King Saul*

1 Samuel 15:22-23

²² But Samuel replied,

“What is more pleasing to the Lord:

your burnt offerings and sacrifices

or your obedience to his voice?

Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,

and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

²³ Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,

and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

So because you have rejected the command of the Lord,

he has rejected you as king.”

Back to Romans 8:4

⁴ He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

- Believing without obedience is not the faith that saves.
 - **James 2:19 ⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.**

My point is this:

- So, what did Paul mean when he said ***“who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.”***

- Faith that saves is always **followed by or coupled with obedience.**

- James said it this way “Faith without works is dead”
 - *Faith without obedience is dead.*

Couple of thoughts on faith:

- **First,** *the faith which justifies is not a single decision but an ongoing reliance upon the promises of God.*
- **Second,** *it is by this faith that God the Spirit and the Spirit frees us from the power of sin and death.*

I hope no one will say.

- *O, that cannot be.*
 - *All you have to do is believe in Christ as Savior; you don't have to overcome sin by the power of the Spirit.*
 - That error distorts and cheapens faith,
 - contradicts the teaching of **Romans 8:1-2** and runs the risk of hearing Jesus say on the judgment day: “**Depart from me, you evildoers, I never knew you.**”

But Pastor,

- “I cannot bear any more burdens of do’s and don’ts.”
 - I give up.
 - The Christian life is impossible.”
- But wait a minute. Don't you want to believe in a Christ who makes a difference in your life?

- Who wants a Jesus who is so powerless that all he can produce is a people who **mouth religious words** but think, feel, and act just like the world?
- ***We don't want that.***
 - ***That's not our King!***

God does not call you to earn your justification but to rest in his promises.

- Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith?
- **Remember this:** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus liberates us from the power of sin and death
 - Not by works of the law but by faith, by trusting daily in the promises of God.
 - This changes us and motivates us to live for His glory.
- ***How do we bring glory to our King?***
 - By believing and trusting in Him for all things.

We close with this thought:

- The words "***Therefore there is no condemnation!***" are the most beautiful words in the world.
- **To the legalist come** in off the ledge, there's no condemnation!
- **To the depressed,** get up out of the bed, there's no condemnation!
- **To the stressed out,** stop and take a deep breath and give thanks.
 - Give your fears to the One that has conquered death, ***there's no condemnation!***
- O, how I want those words for this church and my family and myself.