

Romans 8

Good morning and welcome to Calvary Chapel, we're grateful you're here. We're resuming our verse-by-verse study in the book of Romans, so would you please turn in your Bibles to Romans chapter 8? Just a reminder we will be participating in communion this morning

Remember, we're not running through Romans or racing through Romans, we're reasoning through Romans. And this morning our study is going to encompass all of just 1 verse. Romans 8:1 But we'll be using other parts of the Bible to cement the glorious truth of Romans 8:1 to not only our minds, but our hearts.

Let's read **1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,[fn] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit**

The title of our message this morning is NOT CONDEMNEND

Let's pray

As we begin our study, I have little quiz for you, but don't worry it's easy.

Would you agree that the Bible is the direct Word of God?

And I bet we would all agree that the Bible is the inerrant word of God, meaning without error, right?

Would you agree with me the truth of **2 Timothy 3:16 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.** You agree?

Here is my final question, and I'm going to caution you to pause before you answer.

Is God's word sufficient?

Is God's word enough to not only address, but also solve all of the issues in our lives, or do we believe we need something else in addition to God's word?

See we live in a day where many Christians will quickly declare that yes, the Bible is the living word of God, yet they also run to worldly means and methods to cope and deal with the challenges in this life.

In other words, lots of folks believe this is God's word, but they don't believe His word is enough...

How important is God's word?

Psalm 138:2 I will worship toward Your holy temple,

And praise Your name

For Your lovingkindness and Your truth;

For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Romans 8 is one of the most impactful chapters in all of the Bible. Romans 8 begins with no condemnation; it ends with no separation, and in between there is no defeat.

I pray you realize that God's word is sufficient to bring you the complete healing your heart is longing for.

So I encourage all of us right now to make our decision firm

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,[fn] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Skunk story?

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

See the Bible tells us the wonderful promise in 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Sins that are confessed to God won't hinder us from walking in the pure light of genuine fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Folks when we sin, we need to confess it to God.

We hurt ourselves and hinder our relationship with God if we try to hide or deny our sins: Proverbs 28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper,

But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

If we desire to be close to God, we need repent and confess our sins to God and experience His forgiveness and cleansing.

Yet what so often happens is after the confession, Satan will then swoop in and try to lay a guilt trip on us won't he? 'Look what you just did' type of thing.

Lots of folks know John 3:16. But they fail to grasp John 3:17

John 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Would you now turn in your Bibles to John 8

John 8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Now early in the morning He came again into the temple, and all the people came to Him; and He sat down and taught them. 3 Then the scribes and Pharisees brought to Him a woman caught in adultery. And when they had set her in the midst, 4 they

said to Him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?” 6 This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear.

7 So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.” 8 And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?”

11 She said, “No one, Lord.”

And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Notice Jesus doesn't say 'I'm letting you off now but if it happens again, your toast.' No, the emphasis is on the word Go. It's GO, and sin no more.

Jesus is telling her 'I'm freeing you today from that lifestyle that jeopardized you, that enslaved you, that endangered you. Go your way-you're free, go and sin no more'.

Let's read Romans 8:1 again

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,[fn] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Do you ever ponder what God sees when He looks upon us?

Almost unfathomably, when the Father looks on us, He doesn't see us with all of our failings and fumbles and foibles. No, He sees us robed with the righteousness of Christ Jesus **Isaiah 61:10**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

My soul shall be joyful in my God;

For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments,

And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

As Christians, God doesn't see us in our sin; He sees us in His Son. Regardless of what we've done or how badly we've failed, regardless of who you are or where you are, there is no condemnation if you are in Christ Jesus.

I struggle with this sometimes, don't you? I think of the times where I just blow it, and I sink into despair because I failed the One I love.

But folks we have to remember, He doesn't love us because of what we do for Him, no He loves us in spite of us! It is an overwhelming, inescapable love.

I want us to look at perhaps the greatest example of Jesus not condemning in the scriptures, so would you turn in your bibles with me to Matthew 26?

We're going to pick up in verse 69, and remember Jesus has already been arrested and interrogated, and while that's taken place, we see the events of Peter's denial

69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee."

70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth."

72 But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!" Peter wasn't questioned before a hostile court or even an angry mob. Peter's own fear made a couple of teenage girls look like intimidating foes in his eyes, and he bows in fear before them.

And notice Peter's sin of denying his association with Jesus grew worse with each denial. First, he merely lied; then he took an oath to the lie; now we're about to see him curse and swear.

73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you."

74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Pause here. Today sailors have a reputation for foul language. In Jesus' day fishermen had the same sort of label. Peter had probably cussed his tangled nets a time or two.

As if it would help distance himself from association with Jesus, Peter began to curse and swear. Peter loses all self-control saying I do not know the man. Did you catch that-referred to Jesus as just a man.

It was at Caesarea Philippi that Jesus asked His disciples—who do you say I am? And it was bold, brash Peter that spoke up for the group and rightly said in **Matthew 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Now, Peter refers to Jesus as simply, a man.

...74 Immediately a rooster crowed. The Jewish Talmud tells us that roosters were banned from Jerusalem at the time of Jesus. The priests viewed them as dirty birds that would defile the holy city. It was unusual to hear a cocka-doodle-do in Jerusalem. This was a specific sign to Peter that his confidence had been misplaced.

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly. The word translated “wept” is the Greek word for “bowels or intestines.” Peter's weeping sprang from a deep-down sorrow, a gut-wrenching grief.

Peter sat at the Master's feet - saw Jesus raise a girl from the dead - saw Him in His glory - performed miracles in His name - even walked on water - yet his own courage and commitment wasn't enough! Peter wasn't the man he thought he was.

We all need a rooster in our life, not to destroy but to reveal who we are to ourselves and point us to Christ's love.

But praise God this isn't the end of the story for Peter. Would you now please turn to John 21? We pick up the scene after Christ's resurrection...

1 After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:

2 Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples

were together. 7 disciples are at the sea of Galilea, also known as the sea of Tiberias.

3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and immediately^[fn] got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing.

Peter's words in the Greek are in the present progressive tense, which means they speak of a continual activity. We can't say for certain, but it seems Peter's not suggesting a recreational fishing trip. Peter's returning to work!

Remember, Peter was a fisherman by trade. He left behind a business to follow Jesus. The 3 years on the road with Jesus had been amazing - but things are different now. Now its time to get back to the 'real world'-wet a few nets and start taking care of business.

If it's true Peter was returning to his old vocation it's obvious why. I'm sure he felt that his days of being used by Jesus were over. He had failed so catastrophically. The failure of Peter's boasting about never forsaking Jesus was a 10.0 on the Richter scale of failure. Peter's denial of Jesus was the big one.

How could God ever use Peter again?

Whenever we have a failure for God, it's comforting to strengthen our sagging self-esteem by falling back on an old proficiency. After all, it's familiar, and we were pretty good at it.

So if Peter couldn't make it as a disciple, he knew he could at least catch fish. Yet notice the words, "they caught nothing."

God sees to it the only fishing Peter will ever be good at, is fishing for men.

4-9

4 But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No."

6 And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved (we know that's John) said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. 8 But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish. 9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. Do you remember where Peter denied the Lord? It was by a fire of coals.

Notice too, bread and fish were the elements Jesus used to feed the 5000. And it was that miracle that led directly to Peter's stunning confession a few days later at Caesarea Philippi, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have just caught." Jesus had all the fish He needed to feed everyone. But he invites the disciples to bring their fish too!

This is how God works-He invites us to join Him in the work He's doing, EVEN AFTER WE BLOW IT! What a privilege!

11-15

11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. 12 Jesus said to them, "Come and eat breakfast." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?"—knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish.

14 This is now the third time Jesus showed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, pause here

After their breakfast Jesus now speaks directly to Peter.

So picture the scene in your mind. It's early morning. The sea is calm and quiet. Everyone has just had breakfast. You can picture the smoke rising as the fire crackles. Everyone sitting around a circle, and now Jesus addresses Peter, and while in the presence of the other disciples, does Jesus condemn Peter? No He restores Peter.

...15 "Simon, son of Jonah,[fn] do you love Me more than these?

What are the these? It could be the 153 large fish, the catch of a lifetime!

Or, most likely the these could refer to the other disciples. Remember before Peter denied Jesus 3 times, he claimed to love Jesus more than all the other disciples did in Matthew 26. I believe this is what Jesus is asking him.

Now when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love Me?" The Greek word He uses for love is the word "agape." This is important to know because the Greek language had different words for differing degrees of love.

"Agape" was the strongest of words for love. It spoke of God's love. Agape love is a sacrificial, unselfish, undying kind of love that Peter had previously boasted he had toward Jesus.

...15 He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Peter responds to Jesus by using a different word for love, "phileo" - or "brotherly love."

So why does Peter say phileo instead of agape?

Obviously, this time Peter isn't so quick to boast. Peter couldn't bring himself to claim complete devotion to Jesus in light of his failures.

Verse 15 Jesus replies:

He said to him, "Feed My lambs." Back in John 10 Jesus had referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd. Now Jesus was committing the care of His flock to this disciple who had failed Him miserably in the past! Jesus not only doesn't condemn Peter, He commits trust to Peter

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of Jonah,[fn] do you love Me?" Jesus asks Peter again, do you Agape me?

He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." Yes Lord, I phileo you, brotherly love you

He said to him, "Tend My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah,[fn] do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?"

And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You."

Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. Peter was grieved by this whole line of questioning, but Jesus is revealing that He knows where Peter’s at. Peter’s lack of strength is no secret.

And listen-when you and I fail the Lord, guess what-it’s no surprise to God.

And in our savior’s incredible love, look what’s unfolding. Peter had denied his Lord in the presence of witnesses, near a charcoal fire, three times. Now Peter confirmed his love for the Lord in the presence of witnesses—also near a charcoal fire—three times.

Notice what Jesus didn’t ask Peter. He didn’t ask Peter “Are you really sorry?” Jesus didn’t ask Peter “Will you promise never to do that again?” Rather, Jesus challenged Peter to love.

And did you catch what Peter is supposed to do as a result of loving Jesus? Feed the sheep.

The way you and I love Jesus is by loving His people. We can have all the spiritual head knowledge in the world, we can debate about great theological arguments handed down through the centuries. but if we don’t love Jesus by loving others, then it’s worthless.

18 Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.” 19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, “Follow Me.” The verb translated to grid literally means to fasten.

Jesus is explaining that in the past Peter decided what to wear and where to go. But in the future Peter would bear a cross to his own death.

If you and I were told the details of our own future deaths as the result of indescribable torture, it would send a wave of terror through our bodies. But look how verse 18 begins-**18 Most assuredly.**

These are words of assurance from Jesus to Peter!

Remember Peter denied Jesus three times to save himself from persecution.

Here Jesus assured Peter – most assuredly – that once again he would face the challenge of the cross and this time Peter would embrace it.

Never once did Jesus bring up Peter's past failures did He? I would have, wouldn't you? Why didn't Jesus?

Romans 8 1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,[fn] who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Satan's going to do everything He can to limit our effectiveness for Christ, trying to get us to believe the lies. But we've been set free by the Son haven't we?

See Satan is clever, he'll get our thinking after we blow it to be all about us. But we have the wrong expectation and the wrong view of ourselves. See it's all about Jesus and His saving grace.