

More Than Conquerors 1

Not Condemned

Romans 8:1-4

Memory Verses: Romans 8:1

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

In all of the world, there are two types of people: those who are saved by faith and are IN Christ, and those who are lost and are without Christ. Those who are IN Christ are in a constant state of learning to live from victory, while those who are without Christ are constantly trying to EARN victory! In a sense, those without Christ are like beggars on the street. They cannot be satisfied with who they are and what they have... they are constantly begging life to be good to them, fair with them, to give them more, to make them happy. They are looking for something they will never find. But those IN Christ are no longer slaves to this world, begging for the scraps of pleasure, significance, worth, and love. For as **Romans 8:37** famously says, "No, in all these things we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him who loved us."

Did you get that? Not just conquerors; not just victors... but more than conquerors. Meaning... our victory IN Christ is so much greater than we could possibly comprehend. We are not just conquerors. We are more than conquerors.

This is the theme of what many theologians call the greatest chapter in the whole Bible: **Romans 8**. John Piper said **Romans 8** is "the greatest chapter in the greatest letter in the greatest book in the world." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who spent years preaching through just this one chapter, said it is "the most comforting and encouraging chapter for the Christian." William Tyndale referred to **Romans 8** as "the crown jewel" of the Bible, and J.I. Packer calls it "the Everest of the New Testament."

Why is it the greatest chapter in the Bible? Because it answers our question, "What does it look like to be a Christian?" It tells us where we truly stand with God if we indeed stand IN Christ. It tells us we are not condemned... we are conquerors!

What is a conqueror? A conqueror is someone who leverages their life for Christ. Do you know why they do this? Because they know who they are. They know that their identity in Christ is settled before God. They can risk it all because no matter what, they will still be victorious. They can put their life on the line because their old life is dead. They have been crucified with Christ and the life they now live they live IN Christ. If they die on this field... they are already alive in the kingdom of God forever. They don't fear risking what they know they cannot lose?

And so, let's start in **Romans 8:1-4**. Today, God wants you to recognize something that could change your life. You have been given a new station... all you need to do is rise to that station. The illustration is simple. Think of the old fairytales of young squires. Boys who were barely more than slaves. They were poor, insignificant, and would never amount to anything. But then, through a series of unexpected events they became a knight. Some other knight, took their sword, placed it on their shoulders and declared that they too were now a knight. And what was the next thing they said? Rise, sir knight!

If you are in Christ... you are no longer under the condemnation of your sin, rather you have complete victory over it. You have been given a new station. Therefore you must rise to that station. The main point today is simple; **In Christ, condemnation is gone, victory is won; now rise to that station.** Today I want us to see three ways we've been given this new station and three ways we can rise to it.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see today is that... **We've Been Given A New Lease On Life – So We Must Leverage It**. We see this in **verse 1**. We were condemned. Meaning we were under the wrath of God and destined for eternal destruction. We were guilty. **Romans 3:23**, we have all sinned and all fallen short. We were dead. **Ephesians 2:1**. We were destined for hell. **Revelation 20:15**. But now therefore things are different.

The therefore refers to what Paul has been teaching on the work of Christ to overcome our sinfulness. Because of **Romans 5:8** things are different. Because of **Romans 6:23** we have hope. Because of **Romans 7:24-25** we are delivered. We were once labeled convicts, we are now declared Christ like! The word Christian simply means like Christ or little Christ. We have been given a new title and position... In Christ.

And with this title comes a clean record. Using the knight analogy. When someone became a knight that meant they were given a station that represented honor and integrity. Therefore, their past crimes or indiscretions would be ignored. If someone were to bring up their past sins, another would say, that's not possible... they are a knight. It's not that we haven't sinned... it's that our station makes our past sins irrelevant. If someone brings up our past sin... God simply asks, "how is that possible, they are In Christ!"

We've been given a new lease on life. Because we've been given a new verdict. Condemned means guilty. But through Christ, we are declared not guilty. We are justified. Like a man on death row who is exonerated and set free, we no longer fear dying... we now look forward to living!

So what do we do with this new station? What do we do with this new lease on life? Well, we might be tempted to simply take it for granted. Like a knight who simply became a knight because his daddy was some well

established rich Lord, we might revel in all that the station affords us while not living according to the ideals that the station stands for. We could become complacent and apathetic. We could become self-righteous or self-satisfied. We could say, Hey, I'm a knight.. i've made it... and then waste away in our castle until our physical death.

Or, as we should, we will see this not as something we've earned or deserved, but as something that was bestowed on us by our gracious Lord. And in light of that we will not take it for granted, but we will spend everyday trying to live up to the station we've been given. As Paul says in **Ephesians 4:1**, we should walk worthy of the calling we've been called to.

A true knight understands that they must leverage their position for the sake of the kingdom. Someone who recognizes the station they have been promoted to, the exoneration they have been granted, and the new lease on life they have been given... should be willing to live for the sake of the one who made that possible. They should be willing to give their time for the cause of Christ, their money for the cause of Christ, their sweat for the cause of Christ, their vacations for the cause of Christ, their retirement for the cause of Christ, their weekends for the cause of Christ, their hobbies for the cause of Christ, and everything else in between. They should be willing to lay it all on the line... not because they are trying to earn anything... but because they have been given something so great, that it essentially demands their life and loyalty. We are not condemned, we are more than conquerors, and therefore we should live accordingly! **In Christ, condemnation is gone, victory is won; now rise to that station.**

The second thing we need to see today is that... **We've Been Given A New Law – So We Must Lean Into It.** We see this in **verses 2-4**. Here we have two ruling principles, two operating systems. The law of sin and death that we were under, and the law of the Spirit of Life, which we are Now Therefore under! The law of sin and death was simple... if you sin, you deserve everlasting spiritual death. Condemnation.

But the law of the Spirit of life supercedes the law of sin and death. This law is two fold. Part one, Christ fulfills the righteous requirement of the law by being perfect in our place and becoming a substitutionary atoning sacrifice for us. By doing this he fulfills the law of sin a death and also condemns sin in our flesh! Meaning... the wages of sin; death, no longer applies to us. Instead of condemning us... he condemned our sin by becoming our sacrifice.

And then, in the second part of this law... he imparts to us his Spirit, the Holy Spirit, to lead and guide us to produce life in us. So in essence the first law demanded death and the second law brings life. The first law demanded perfect righteousness. The second law gives us the

Spirit to help us live righteously. Now there is therefore no condemnation. We are under a new law. We have a new master & commander. Not the law of Moses which brings death but the Spirit of God which brings life. **Go back to the imagery of the Knight.** When a squire becomes a knight he doesn't go on taking orders from the same old chain of command. A new station means a new authority. If he keeps listening to the old voices he will live beneath his station.

So what does this mean for the way we respond? It means we need to lean into this new power and authority! We need to give it our attention and allegiance. **We need to stop leaning on what could never change us and start leaning into what already has.** Some of you are still trying to fight sin with your willpower and in your own strength. Some of you are still trying to prove yourselves with effort. Some of you are still trying to become what Christ has already made you! And you are exhausted. Why? Because you are leaning into the wrong law. **In Christ, condemnation is gone, victory is won; now rise to that station.**

The last thing we need to see today is that... **We've Been Given A New Power – So We Must Pursue It.** We see this in **verses 4**. The new power is the Spirit, which we just discussed. And it gives us the power to refrain from sin and to avoid giving into the flesh. **When we yield to the Spirit's power in our lives, we will find it almost natural to walk in Christlikeness.** Like a knight who has been given a new sword and a new regiment of troops... your station gives you power. But you must choose how you are going to use it. If you wield the sword and your troops correctly, you can win a lot of battles. If you ignore your sword and troops, you will find yourself in trouble. If you are to rise to your station... you must pursue the power of the Spirit in your life. **In Christ, condemnation is gone, victory is won; now rise to that station.**

Application

So... your new station of being In Christ, comes with a new authority, the Law of the Spirit of Life. And a new power... the Spirit working in you. With such a powerful position, In Christ, you should be able to do a lot of things for the kingdom of God.

Conclusion

Will you rise to the occasion? Will you walk worthy of your calling? Will you endeavor to be who God says you are or will you simply be only who you can be in your own strength; a slave, a squire, a beggar? The choice is yours... but if you choose not to rise up, it won't be because you haven't been given every advantage possible. And it won't be because you are condemned. **In Christ, condemnation is gone, victory is won; now rise to that station.**