Sermon Highlights

No Condemnation: Walking in the Life and Power of the Spirit

Summary:

Drawing from Romans 8:1-11, this sermon presents the capstone of the apostle Paul's argument in Romans -- that those who are in Christ Jesus live free from condemnation. Pastor Bruce Gordon explains that condemnation is not merely guilt over individual sins but the death sentence that entered humanity through Adam's disobedience in the garden. Salvation is defined not simply as forgiveness but as the resurrection of new life in a spiritually dead creature. The sermon emphasizes that believers must reckon the old nature dead and the new nature alive by faith, rather than striving in their own strength to overcome sin. Two opposing principles are contrasted throughout: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death. The carnal mind, the sermon argues, is at enmity with God and cannot be reformed -- it must be replaced by the new life given through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The same resurrection power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead now resides in every true believer, and it is by resting in that supernatural reality, not by human effort, that the Christian life is properly lived.

Key Points:

- The word "therefore" in Romans 8:1 points back to the entirety of Paul's argument in Romans, not merely the preceding verses

- Condemnation means both judgment and sentencing -- humanity was condemned to death as a result of Adam's sin in the garden

- Sin is the symptom of spiritual death, not the root cause; the root cause is separation from God

- Salvation is the resurrection of new life in a spiritually dead person, producing a genuinely new creature

- Believers are called to reckon the old nature dead and the new nature alive by faith, based on the Word of God rather than feelings or circumstances

- Two laws or principles operate in the world: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death

- The law of Moses was perfect but powerless to produce life because the flesh is weak and all have sinned

- Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh -- fully human yet without sin -- and condemned sin in the flesh by living in complete obedience to the Father

- The carnal mind is at enmity with God, cannot submit to God, and cannot please God

- Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them are not truly His

- The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead is the power available to and residing in every believer

- Christians are supernatural beings called to live supernatural lives before a watching world

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 8:1-11, which addresses the freedom from condemnation and the life of the Spirit available to those who are in Christ Jesus

Stories:

- The fall of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden is referenced extensively to explain the origin of spiritual death, the nature of condemnation, and the contrast between Adam's failure to trust God and Christ's perfect submission to the Father's will

- The call of Abraham out of Ur is mentioned to illustrate the sovereign grace of God in redemption, noting that Abraham was a heathen with no merit of his own when God called him

- The agony of Christ in the garden of Gethsemane is referenced as the supreme example of human submission to the will of God, contrasted with Adam's failure to do the same

- A pastoral illustration is drawn from Pastor Bruce Gordon's experience in financial counseling, observing that people who spend their lives accumulating wealth often arrive near death in misery, having sacrificed family and peace for possessions they cannot keep