

The Full Meaning of "No Condemnation"

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07.11.10



Spiritual Family July Book of the Bible: Romans

Written by Paul on his 3rd apostolic journey in A.D. 57.
Arguably the greatest book ever written.

Chapter Breakdown:

- 1-3: All men under sin
- 4: Righteousness by Faith reaches to Abraham
- 5: Freedom from Penalty of Sin through Blood
- 6: Freedom from Power of Sin through Union with Christ in Crucifixion & Resurrection
- 7: Failure of a Life Lived by the Law
- 8: Glory and Success of Life Lived by the Spirit
- 9-11: God's Sovereign Purpose and Complete Faithfulness
- 12-16: Practical Faith and Final Victory

Romans 7:21-8:2 (ESV)

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. ^{8:1}There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ^{8:2}For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

The word for "condemnation" is katakrima.

It is used only three times in the Bible. The other two are Romans 5:16 and 5:18.

Romans 5:16 (ESV)

And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.

Romans 5:18 (ESV)

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

In between them is Romans 5:17.

Romans 5:17 (ESV)

For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

The word means, not only an "adverse judgement," but more specifically, the results of the judgement – loss of freedom, power, and rights.

So Romans 8:1 could read, "There is now no powerlessness or rightlessness for those in Christ Jesus."

Why? Because the dilemma of Chapter 7 is solved by the reality of 8:2.

Romans 8:2 (ESV)

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

The best illustration of this is in how the Law of Gravity is overcome by the Law of Aerodynamics.

In Christ, we have access to a higher Law of the Spirit that produces lives of sonship, free from the Law of Sin and Death.