

Perhaps the Greatest Chapter in the Bible
Romans 8

Reading through the Bible this year has provided us with insight into chapters, verses and stories we might have otherwise overlooked. Slowing down next year to take the whole year to read the New Testament will provide us with an even deeper experience.

*Get in the Bible so
the Bible can get in you*

This is where we experience love and grace, where we get our assurance, direction, and hope, where justice, kindness and humility (Micah 6:8) are lived out of us.

One of the great chapters of the Bible is the jewel of Romans 8. We only have time this morning for a glimpse of its glory but there are two things we don't want to miss -

First: It's Beginning and It's Ending. Romans 8:1 & 38-39

a) 8:1 – No condemnation because of Jesus

'condemnation' = katakrima = an adverse or damnatory sentence

Romans 5:16 - *And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin [Adam]. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.*

Is this something Paul thought up? Is this a NT concept?

Psalm 34:22 - *The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*

The whole history of the OT demonstrates God's fidelity to his people, his safekeeping of them and his rescue/redemption of them from danger.

b) 8:30-39 – No separation from Jesus

John 17:10-11 – *All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.*

- We are one with the Father as Jesus is one with the Father
- We could no more be lost than Jesus can be lost

Union with Christ means that Christ's obedience is counted to us. Union with Christ is also a the way in which we are nourished by Christ (John 15/vine and branches)

There is no good, no saving good, no soul-satisfying good, no eternal good that is ours except as we are united to Christ

- *We are in Christ* (2 Cor. 5:17; John 15:4, 5, 7; 1 Cor. 15:22; 2 Cor. 12:2; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 1:4, 2:10; Phil. 3:9; 1 Thess. 4:16; 1 John 4:13).
- *Christ is in us* (Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Rom. 8:10; 2 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 3:17).

1. We are initially united with Christ in *regeneration* (Eph. 2:4-5, 10)
2. We appropriate and continue to live out of this union through *faith* (Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:16-17).
3. We are *justified* in union with Christ (1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:8-9).
4. We are *sanctified* through union with Christ (1 Cor. 1:30; John 15:4-5; Eph. 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:17).
5. We *persevere* in the life of faith in union with Christ (John 10:27-28; Rom. 8:38-39).
6. We are even said to *die* in Christ (Rom. 14:8; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 14:13).
7. We shall be *raised* with Christ (Col. 3:1; 1 Cor. 15:22).
8. We shall be eternally *glorified* with Christ (Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:16-17).

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-union-with-christ>

<https://www.crossway.org/articles/10-things-you-should-know-about-union-with-christ/>

But we know that Jesus can't be lost because we are united to Jesus and he's seated at the Father's right hand; the place of power and privilege.

Why is there no condemnation? It is illustrated in the Abrahamic Covenant of Genesis 15:1-12 & 17

God made a 7-fold promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. He ratifies it in Gen 15.

Genesis 15:1-12 & 17

- Why a smoking fire pot? Because the full fire of God's judgement (*krisis*) has been poured out on Jesus.

Isaiah 53:4-5 - Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace.

How did God do this?

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin...

Why did God do this?

1 Thess 1:10 – Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

What do we get from it?

Romans 5:1-5 – Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- Why a flaming torch? To see the smoking pot. (Christ is that light of the world – John 1:4-9 & 8:12)

Like the two blind men outside of Jericho we should daily pray, **“Lord, let our eyes be opened”** (Matt 20:33).

2 Corinthians 4:3-6 - And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,

[What would it mean, how would it change your world, if you saw Jesus Christ **as Lord** of Covid, of Wall Street, of the U.S., of your marriage, vocation, children, future, life & death?]

with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

That flaming torch, Jesus, enables us to see God and all he is doing. That’s one reason why I’ve chosen a NT reading plan for next year that doesn’t read the Gospels consecutively but spaces them out throughout the year.

- Mark in January
- Matthew in April
- Luke in June & July

- John in October & November

We won't just see Jesus in January and then dismiss him for the rest of the NT but will walk with him throughout the year, seeing him, listening to him, following him, understanding him, re-presenting him to our world.

APP: If you ever hope to 'see' God, it will be only through Jesus!

Hebrews 10:1-14 - *For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.*

To put it more concisely or simply -

John 5:24 - *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life*

- Two conditions for salvation
 - Hears my word
 - Believes him who sent me
- Three results of salvation
 - Has eternal life – Present tense
 - Does not come into judgement (*krisis* = damnatory judgement) – Future Tense
 - But is passed from death to life – Past Tense

Conclusion:

Or as Paul simply says it in **Romans 8:1 – There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.**

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!*

**What more can He say than to you He hath said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

Community Groups:

- 1 – Where have you found God working in your world this week?
- 2 – How have you struggled?
- 3 – What difference would it make in your world if you saw “Jesus Christ as Lord” in every aspect of your daily living?
- 4 – Read Psalm 51:5 – When did we become sinners?
- 5 – Read John 3:17 & Romans 5:16 – Why didn’t Jesus come to condemn the world?
- 6 – Where else in the OT might you find the Romans 8:1 concept that God frees us from condemnation?
- 7 – What Scripture texts could you point to do prove that we are united with Jesus and cannot be separated from him?
- 8 – How does Genesis 15 picture God’s wrath being poured out on Jesus so that we are not condemned?
- 9 – Read Romans 5:1-5. What are the benefits of our justification? Which do you have the most difficulty time experiencing?
- 10 – Read John 5:24. What are the two conditions for salvation? Have you heard the Gospel? Have you believed on Jesus?
- 11 – According to John 5:24, what are the three results of salvation? How does this verse provide assurance for you?
- 12 – How could the application of Romans 8:1 transform your interaction with Covid and our Covid-19 plagued world?

