



## ROMANS 8:1-5

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

*5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

### NOTES FOR LEADERS

Please remind your group of these upcoming events:

1. Baby Dedication on the 12th of November
2. Water Baptism on the 19th of November

Finally, if there is anyone in your group who is keen to join our Carols choir, they should contact the church at [worship@cityhill.co.za](mailto:worship@cityhill.co.za)

### START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

### START THINKING

1. Read Romans 8:1-2.
  - a. Why do you think it is important that "there is now no condemnation"?
  - b. How does this help us in the battle against sin?
  - c. What can make it hard for you to continue to believe that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"?
2. Read Romans 8:1-5. What do verses 1-4 tell us about the relationship between our justification (being set right with God) and our sanctification (The process of being freed from sin or being made Holy)?

### START SHARING

1. Share personal stories or testimonies of how surrendering to Jesus has led to personal freedom and transformation. How has this transformation impacted your identity and purpose?
2. In the past, what are some obstacles that have kept you chained to guilt and unable to live in

the freedom of forgiveness? What helped you move forward to forgive yourself and others?

3. Read Romans 8:3-4. We are not condemned because Christ met the standard we could not meet for ourselves. What would change in your life today if you fully embraced the freedom you already have in Christ?
4. What practical steps can we take to have our "minds set on the things of the Spirit" (Romans 8:5)?

### START PRAYING

Spend time in prayer, asking God for revelation and understanding as we navigate the teachings of Romans 8. Pray for the strength and wisdom to live according to the truths revealed in this chapter.

### START DOING

This week, read Romans 8:1-5 then:

Spend time in prayer, asking God to reveal areas in your life where you need to experience the freedom and transformation offered in Romans 8:1-5.

Reflect on how the truths from Romans 8:1-5 can bring hope, comfort, and assurance in different circumstances you might be facing.

This Sunday, Dusty kicked off our Romans 8 series with a message about what Jesus achieved on the cross for us.

Romans is a very theological book, but Paul wrote it with a heart and desire that it would become revelation for us to receive. As we unpack this chapter of Romans 8, pray that the Lord will bring us revelation.

*Romans is Paul's fullest explanation of the Gospel because he is writing to unite Jews and Gentiles. One of the goals of this letter was to unify the church (Jews & Gentiles).*

*It has been said that Romans is the Himalayas of the Bible, and if it is the Himalayas, then Romans 8 is the Mount Everest.*

*Famous English-Canadian theologian J.I. Packer wrote: "All roads in the Bible lead to Romans, all views afforded by the Bible are seen most clearly from Romans, and when the message of Romans gets into a person's heart, there is no telling what may happen."*

*Romans is a profound, beautiful book, and we will be doing a deep dive into chapter 8 over the next five weeks. We pick up after chapter 7, where Paul talks about our powerlessness to keep the law, powerlessness against sin.*

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

*5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. Romans 8:1-5 (NIV)*

*With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ's being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.*

*3-4 God went for the jugular when he sent his own Son. He didn't deal with the problem as something remote and unimportant. In his Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right once and for all. The law code, weakened as it always was by fractured human nature, could never have done that.*

*The law always ended up being used as a Band-Aid on sin instead of a deep healing of it. And now what the law code asked for but we couldn't deliver is accomplished as we, instead of redoubling our own efforts, simply embrace what the Spirit is doing in us.*

*5-8 Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.*

*Romans 8:1-5 (MSG)*

*This scripture points to the cross.*

*What did Jesus achieve for us on the cross?*

*1. Jesus became a sin offering for us*

*3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. Romans 8:2*

*21 God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21*

**What this does not mean:**

**A. Jesus did not become sin for us**

*"You know that he appeared in order to take away sins and in him there is no sin." 1 John 3:5*

**B. Jesus did not become a sinner**

*"He bore our sins." 1 Peter 2:24 - He was not a sinner.*

**C. Jesus was not guilty of actual sin**

*"And though they found no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed." Acts 13:28*

No one is truly guilty of sin unless they have sinned against God. Jesus never sinned - if He were guilty of sin, He would just be another sinner paying for His actions. Even the Pharisees knew he wasn't guilty.

In Leviticus 16, we read about God's instructions to the Israelites regarding the Day of Atonement. On this day, the high priest would first offer a sacrifice for his sins and those of his household; then, he would perform sacrifices for the nation. *"From the Israelite community [the high priest was instructed] to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering"* (v. 5). The priest brought the animals before the Lord and cast lots between the two goats - one to be a sacrifice and the other to be the scapegoat. The first goat was slaughtered for the sins of the people, and its blood was used to cleanse the Most Holy Place, the tent of meeting and the altar (v. 20). After the cleansing, the live goat was brought to the high priest. Laying his hands on the scapegoat, the high priest was to *"confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites - all their sins - and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the wilderness in the care of someone appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness"* (vv. 21-22). Symbolically, the scapegoat took on the sins of the Israelites and removed them (v. 10). For Christians, this is a foreshadowing of Christ.

We can only understand what Jesus did for us when we truly understand how truly disgusting sin is.

**2. Jesus met the full righteous requirement of the law**

Jesus, in living a perfect, sinless life, fulfilled the moral laws, and in his sacrificial death, also fulfilled the ceremonial laws. Jesus didn't abolish the law; He fulfilled what the law tried to do. Jesus met the full righteous requirements of the law.

The law always had an expiry date. It can't get us into heaven. Jesus came and fulfilled the law and made a way for us to enter heaven. He set us free from the law of sin and death.

**3. Jesus set us free from the law of sin & death**

*There is no pain, no shame, no guilt for those who are in Christ Jesus. Jesus has set us free, and now we get eternal life. Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit who gives life has set you[a] free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2.*

When we surrender to Jesus, we become free and are no longer trapped by sin and death.

When we give our hearts to Jesus, we become justified - declared righteous through the work of the cross. We get a new future, a transformed life through Jesus Christ.

When we are justified (declared righteous), we are given a:

- New status - right with God and forgiven
- New family - included in God's people
- New future - transformed life