

TITLE: FREEDOM IN CHRIST ALONE

Text: Romans 8: 1-4

- 1. There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*
- 2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*
- 3. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,*
- 4. that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

The good news of Jesus Christ is more than facts to be believed; it is also a life to be lived.

A BIT OF BACKGROUND...

The church at Rome had not been planted by Paul.

It may have started by the Roman Jews who were converted on the day of Pentecost.

The church was a mixture of Jewish and Gentile believers and were experiencing some tensions between the two groups.

The big issue in this letter is ***how anyone can be declared righteous and stand uncondemned before God.***

In light of the tension between the two groups, Paul makes it clear that no one has an edge on God; rather, all stand condemned before Him because no one has kept the law.

Having driven that truth home, ***he then declares the good news that forgiveness, acceptance and the new***

life of the Spirit come to us as we live in Christ.

Paul asserts that right standing comes only through faith in Jesus Christ who died for us as a sacrifice for sin.

As believers, there are 4 principles that we need to take into account as we all journey together and also for us to live a victorious Christian life.

The 4 principles...

#1. In Christ Jesus, I am free from condemnation.

Read verse 1.

The status of “no condemnation” is reserved exclusively for those who are “*in Christ Jesus.*”

As a believer, there is no damnation sentence hanging over your head.

There is now no eternal death sentence for you.

“*In Christ Jesus*” there is no grey area. To be “*in Christ Jesus*” means that you are totally sold out and have an ongoing union with Christ and that your life is under His Lordship.

When God says, “no condemnation,” it is irrevocable, irreversible, declared by God to be true forever.

#2. In Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of life governs my life.

Read verse 2.

In verse 2, Paul presented 2 different kinds of government and 2 kinds of laws.

Paul talks about the 2 governments and 2 laws...

Each governing government has their own laws.

- God’s kingdom or the kingdom of light that is governed by the law of the Spirit of life and

- The kingdom of darkness which is governed by the law of sin and death

In *the kingdom of God*, the law of Spirit of life operates, which means everything you do will release and breathe life.

In *the kingdom of darkness*, the law of sin and death operates, which means everything will always lead to sin and bring death.

Paul mentioned that “*the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death.*”

Because we are in Christ, we are in a different government and in His kingdom, in His government, it is the law of the Spirit of life that is now in operation.

We are governed by the law of his kingdom.

The law of the Spirit of life takes over and defies the law of sin and death.

Ex. Law of Gravity and Law of Aerodynamics.

#3. In Christ Jesus, His death condemned sin and set me free.

Read verse 3.

Through His own physical body, His sinless life, ***He contained sin***, and took sin on the cross and nailed it to the cross – ***He condemned sin in the flesh.***

Because the law is weak through the flesh, He came and contained sin in His own flesh.

Kaphar, a Hebrew word usually translated as ‘atonement’, is actually a matter of **containment**.

Read 1 Peter 3:18.

Sin was contained in Christ.

1 Cor. 5:21 God *hath made him to be sin...*

Contained in Christ, sin was condemned in Him

He needed to die to bring **death to sin (its power and penalty of sin)** once and for all.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.

#4. In Christ Jesus, the righteous requirement of the law has been fulfilled over my life.

Read verse 4.

Jesus did not only fulfil the requirement of the law but the *righteous* requirement of the law.

He did not pay by increment but paid the price in full price, the right price.

*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
No one is righteous, no not even one.*

We are all spiritually bankrupt, therefore we cannot pay the righteous requirement of the law.

We are spiritually bankrupt.

The right price for a sinful man is a sinless man.

Only a sinless and righteous person can redeem the sinful and unrighteous person.

Ex. The only way for you to get out of a shop without you yourself paying for something is when someone pays the bill on your behalf.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.

It may be free for you but not with Jesus.

Your freedom, your pardon, cost Him His life.

In Christ alone, you can experience true freedom!