



Romans 5-8 – No Condemnation

5:1-11

JUSTIFICATION AND ITS BENEFITS

Reflecting on chapters 1-4, the benefits of justification are incredible: peace with God, hope of glory and access to God's grace – all through the cross of Christ. Paul rejoices in these evidences of God's love.

5:12-21

THE FREE GIFT OF GRACE

The death of Jesus raises a question: how does the death of one man make a difference? Paul's answer is that just as one man sinning (Adam) brought condemnation to humanity, so one man's perfect obedience (Christ) brings the gift of righteousness. The role of the law is to shine a spotlight on sin and highlight the wonder of God's grace in saving such wicked people. This theme is continued in chapter 7.

6:1-14

LIFE UNDER GRACE

Paul explores an objection: if our sin highlights God's grace, then shouldn't we just sin more so that God is glorified 'more'? No – the Christian has 'died' to sin. It remains but no longer reigns over us. God is our master, and we now serve righteousness, not sin.

6:15-23

SLAVES UNDER GRACE

Paul digs deeper into the argument that Christians are free to sin. Do we have license to freely sin if God will surely forgive? Again, Paul's answer is no. He explains that a slave can only do the bidding of their master. Once that master was sin, and we had no freedom to obey 'righteousness' as our master. Now, the opposite is true: righteousness is our master and we can reap its wonderful benefits instead of the wages of sin.

7:1-6

DYING FOR RELEASE

Paul returns to the concept of law that he explored back in chapter 5. The law serves as a spotlight on the problem of sin. Just as a marriage contract is released after death, so the Christian is released from the law because of Christ's death. We have died to the law through our connection to Christ. His death serves as our death to the law, so we are no longer 'bound' by it.

7:7-25

THE LAW'S ROLE IN GOD'S GRACE

If the law condemns us in our sin, is it sinful itself? Paul's answer is again, no. Paul shows us that the problem is sin. The commandments show the righteousness, holiness and goodness of God, but our 'flesh', stained by sin, takes what was intended for life and uses it for death. As long as the flesh remains it will wage war against our ability to honour God's righteous, holy and good laws.

8:1-4

NO CONDEMNATION

Because of the law and our sin, humans are left condemned 'in the flesh'. But God has done something about both these problems: he has sent his Son in human likeness as a sin offering to pay our penalty, which also satisfies the requirements of the law. This is the basis of Paul's declaration, 'there is now no condemnation'.

8:5-17

SPIRIT-LED CHILDREN OF GOD

Paul lays out a contrast between two controlling forces: the Spirit and the Flesh. To be led by the Spirit means life, adoption, freedom, righteousness, confidence and glory. To be led by the flesh means death.

8:18-30

GROANING FOR GLORY

The sufferings of a Christian, while real and hard, don't compare to the glorious hope that awaits us. The world, along with our bodies, will be liberated from sin. Even now, the Christian enjoys the ministry of the Spirit in our weakness. God is at work in every part of our lives today, shaping us to be like Jesus and to readying us for future glory.

8:31-39

CONFIDENT CONQUERORS THROUGH HIM WHO LOVES US

On what basis can the Christian have confidence about their future? God's gift of his Son is the assurance that God is completely 'for us'. Nothing can stand in the way of his love – neither sin, nor trouble, nor spiritual forces, not even death can separate us from God's love in Christ.