

Dear Friends and Family,

Condemnation is the action of sentencing someone to punishment. In the context of Romans 8:1, it is the glorious hope we have that the penalty of eternal separation from our Heavenly Father has been wiped from our account.

Immediately following the conflict between our two natures in chapter 7, Paul says “Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” What a comforting statement. Again, in context, he is not saying we can just go on sinning (Rom. 6:1), but he is acknowledging that we will still struggle with sin (Rom. 7:15), then comforting us that there is no longer any condemnation (sentence of eternal punishment) for that sin. What exactly does this mean?

Pastor’s Point of View

Day 1 - READ: Romans 8:1-8

What is it that sets us free from sin and death?

If you had to describe the ‘law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus’ what would you say it is?

What was the law incapable of doing, why?

Who is responsible for doing that which the law could not do? Who deserves the glory? How did God complete this act?

Consciously set your mind on the things of the Spirit this week. Meditate on these scriptures. Find others who you can talk to about them. Set your mind, resolutely, firmly, on Christ and His sacrifice for you.

Day 2 - READ: Romans 8:9-11

Consider: What does it mean that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Compare: 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 and 7:1-3 to 1 Corinthians 3:16 and consider the following...

How did God’s glory ascend upon the temple in the Old Testament? How does the Spirit of God dwell in us now? What is his temple? Imagine for a minute what it looked like to witness the glory of the Lord ascending. Now consider that the spirit of God lives actively in you.

Now read Romans 8:11 again. What power raised Jesus from the dead? What now dwells in you? How then, shall we live?

Day 3 - READ: Romans 8:12-17

Paul introduces one of the most significant doctrines in all of scripture. What is it?

Consider this part of the legal definition of adoption:

*“The **legal** relationship results in the adoptee becoming the **legal** heir of the adopter”*

Consider what it means that you have all of the privileges and responsibilities that come with being one of God’s children. What does that include?

1. What responsibility is first mentioned in this passage in verse 12-13?
2. What privilege is mentioned in verse 15?
3. Recall that ‘Abba’ is the familial Greek term for Father. It is comparable to saying *Daddy* in English.
4. What additional privileges are outlined in verses 16-17?

Many of you know that we adopted our daughter, Rosie. She is now a *Long*. She is legally part of our family. Having experienced the adoption process, I have a new understanding about what it means to be “adopted as sons”. Rosie is an heir to our family, a right that will never be revoked. She is precious and loved and valued and we did all that was legally required to make her a permanent member of our family. We love her like she is our own. God views us the same, once we ask Jesus to be our personal savior and accept his death on the cross as penalty for our sins. We become *His*.

Day 4 - READ: Romans 8:18-25

Meditate on Romans 8:18. Consider this verse especially in regards to what is going on today. Is there a tendency to place fear, worry, and personal suffering over and above the hope we have in a glorious future with our Savior? Why is this?

Consider: Even creation longs to be set free from the sinful fallen world we now live in. All of creation hopes for the future glorification. How is this manifested today?

Study Romans 8:23. What does this verse mean? How is it in context with the previous verse? In the previous passage, Paul spoke of our Spiritual adoption, by which we call God *Abba*, Father. Here he transitions to our physical adoption, the redemption of our body.

How does this passage end? What reassurance does this give you? What is the definition of hope?

Hope is what we have in Christ. The hope of a future, in glory, with our Heavenly Father. The greatest truth about our hope is that it is not empty. It will be fulfilled. How often do we hope for things that never come to pass? We hope for many things- a promotion, a change in situation, a relationship. But our hope in God will never disappoint.

“But those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint. “ Isaiah 40:31

Through Hope in Christ,
Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*