

Dear Friend,

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.

I was taught in denominational church that this verse means there is absolutely no condemnation to people who “believe” that Jesus bore the guilt and punishment of their sin. It is true that He bore our guilt and punishment, but it is also true that He empowered us with His own spirit to walk free from sin.

In context, the previous chapter (Romans chapter seven) describes all unregenerate people who love God, who want to walk holy, but find there is a law that forces them ... condemns them ... to living in sin.

Rom 7:22-25 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

What condemns a convicted criminal? The law. In this passage it is not referring to the law of Moses that condemns mankind to sin. It is the law of sin and death that is passed down to every person through the law of Genesis. It is the sin nature, the death nature, passed down from Adam to every human born of woman. That law of sin and death condemns us, sentences us, to living a life of sin. No matter how much the unregenerate person loves God and strives with the mind and willpower to live holy, he is condemned by the law ... the law of sin and death ... to walk (live) in sin.

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

This “light of life” is the same “spirit of life” in Christ Jesus spoken of in:

Rom 8:2 For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

When a person is born again, he is empowered to walk free from the law of sin and death. But that does not mean the law of sin and death disappears. It is still there, just as powerful as ever, but the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus empowers the believer to walk above sin and death.

The perfect analogy is how the physical laws of lift and thrust empower an airplane to break free from the law of gravity. The law of gravity did not disappear or go away at all. It is still

there in full force, just as it was before. But the laws of lift and thrust empower the aircraft to rise above it, to no longer be condemned to remain earthbound by it.

Lift and thrust only come into play when the aircraft is “in motion.” There is no such thing as lift or thrust in an airplane that is sitting still. The laws of lift and thrust “exist” whether the airplane is in motion or not. But the laws of lift and thrust have no effect on the airplane until the airplane is in motion. Said another way, the laws of lift and thrust must be “engaged” before the law of gravity is overcome.

That is why Romans 8:1 says there is no condemnation to those who WALK after the “law of the spirit of life” in Christ Jesus. If you never WALK after the “light of life” you will remain being condemned to a life of sin ... no matter that you “believe” that Jesus bore your sin on the cross. An airplane pilot can “believe” in the law of lift and thrust all he wants to, but he will never break free from gravity until he causes the airplane to move so those laws will be engaged.

The Christian will never break free from a life of sin until he begins to WALK after the light of life he received when he was born again. You are like the airplane parked on the tarmac. You are fully empowered to live above sin, but you remain condemned to sin because you will not WALK according to the law of the spirit of life of Christ Jesus within you. You remain “sin-bound” the same way the airplane remains “earth-bound.”

This is the same chapter that gives the dire warning to Christians about continuing to walk (as a lifestyle) in sin after you have been born again:

Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Everybody dies physically. This is not talking about physical death. This is talking about spiritual death. This is the same warning given by God to Adam in the garden. If you sin (by disobeying God) ... you will die. The serpent (the devil) said, you can sin by disobeying God and you will not die. Many radical grace preachers today teach that sin has been so fully and completely paid for by Jesus ... past, present, and future ... that committing sin will not separate the believer from God. That is the same lie told by the serpent in the garden of Eden.

They are saying, “Christian, you can continue to live in sin and not die.” Can you hear the hiss of the serpent? I can.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY