

“VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN LIVING”

Text: Romans 7:14 – 8:4

Subject: “You Are Victorious Over Sin!”

Introduction

1. Romans Chapter 7 is the confession of Paul and every believer.
2. Romans 7 reveals the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit.
3. Romans 7 reveals the purpose of the Law.

Question: Why was the Law given?

Answer: To show us how much we needed grace:

- The Law judges us and condemns us. (Romans 2:12)
- The Law cannot save us. (Romans 3:21 & 22)
- The Law accuses us of sin. (Romans 4:15)
- The Law causes sin to multiply. (Romans 5:20)
- The Law brings us into bondage. (Romans 6:14)
- The Law reveals the presence of sin. (Romans 7:5)

Question: Why was the Law given? (One reason)

Answer: ♦ To show us we were sinners and awaken our conscience!
♦ To expose our sinful nature and
♦ To reveal our sin so that we would be driven to God for the answer.

(Romans 7 is Paul’s great dilemma and great confession.)

1. **Paul’s dilemma** is in Romans 7:15:

“What I want to do, I do not do; what I don’t want to do I find myself doing.”

Question: How many of you have ever said these same words?

Question: How many of you have ever noticed the law of the sinful nature at work in you?

Question: How many of you have ever struggled with displeasing God in some way?
(That was Paul’s dilemma.)

2. **Paul’s confession** is also listed in Romans 7:24 & 25

“O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

(V. 25) *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I serve the Law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

It Is a Burst Of Praise From Paul’s Lips:

- He is not going to live in Romans 7, but instead live in Romans 8.
- He has found the answer to his dilemma and spiritual struggle.
- He is not content to accept spiritual defeat and low living on a carnal level. (Repeat)
- He is fully aware of his sinful nature, but now more fully aware of the resurrected Jesus.
- He has received a word from God in Romans 8 that lifts the level of living for all of us here.
- Romans 8 destroys all our excuses!
- Romans 8 defeats the voices of backsliding!

- Romans 8 dissolves every lie of Satan.
- Romans 8 dispatches God to the rescue!!

**(The 39 verses of Romans 8 reveal one thing)
“Victorious Christian Living”**

1. In vs. 1-4, you are victorious over **sin**. How? (Read v. 2)
2. In vs. 5-17, you are victorious over **self**. How? (Read v. 11)
3. In vs. 18-27, you are victorious over **suffering**. How? (Read v. 18)
4. In vs. 28-30, you are victorious over **sadness**. How? (Read v. 28)
5. In vs. 31-39, you are victorious over **separation**. How? (Read v. 39)

**(Today in verses 1- 4)
“Victorious Over Sin”**

(How the Lord has freed you from the law of sin and death)

- In v. 1, what does it mean to **have no condemnation**?
- In v. 2, what does it mean to **be free from the law of sin and death**?
- In v. 3, what does it mean that Jesus **has condemned sin in the flesh**?
- In v. 4, what does it mean to **walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**?

(Remember now)

- Romans 7 doesn't say it is impossible to live for Jesus!
- It just leads to Romans 8 which reveals:
 1. We get a new nature at the new birth!
 2. We still live with the old nature of Adam!
 3. We have the Holy Spirit to enable us to do God's will as long as we yield to (and feed) the new man!

I. What Does It Mean To Be Free From Condemnation? (V. 1)

(v. 1) *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”*

Question: How does Paul begin his song of victory?

Answer: This way; the people who belong to Jesus **are not condemned!**

Question: What do the words “**no condemnation**” mean to you and me?

Answer: The Greek words (OUDEN KATAKRIMA) mean:

1. The penal consequences of sin.
2. The divine displeasure over sin.
3. The judicial anger from sin.
4. The fear of future punishment because of sin.
5. The ultimate death (or separation from God) because of sin.

(In other words)

- There is rest and liberty for every believer.
- There is joy and freedom for every Christian.
- There is no fear for anyone vindicated.

Question: Who is it that is free from condemnation?

Answer: (V. 1) ***“Them which are in Christ Jesus.”*** (Or)

- Those who trust Jesus fully for their salvation.
- Those who have repented and agreed with God about their sin.

Question: What is the consequence of true repentance in the heart?

Answer: #1. Your conscience is relieved. #3. Your acquittal is sealed.

#2. Your favor with God is assured. #4. Your privileges are plentiful and many. (Why?)

- Because the Lord has removed the wrath of God against you (placing it upon Himself).
- Verse 1 doesn't say “no mistakes”, no failures”, “and no sins” (we all have them).
- Verse 1 does say *“Sin or Satan have no legal right to condemn you (if you are in Christ Jesus.”*

II. What Does It Mean to Be Free from the law of Sin and Death?

(V.2) *“For the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”*

Question: What is “The law of sin and death”?

Answer: “The law of sin and death” is the rule and reign of sin that results in death.

Question: What has happened to the law of sin and death in the believer?

(Two things)

Answer: #1. You are free from the law (or energy and power of sin that produces death).

#2. You now live in the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (v. 2) which means that you live In the energy and power of the Holy Spirit that produces life!

(Notice verse 2)

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” means:

- The same spirit, energy and life in Jesus is now the same spirit, energy and life in you.
- The same energy and power that raised Jesus from the dead now fills believers to live Christian lives on earth.
- The same energy and power that brought Jesus out of the grave is the same energy and power that brings us out of the tomb of sin and low living.

(In other words in verse 2)

“Made me free from the law of sin” means:

- The believer has been liberated to a new life of power and obedience and joy.
- The believer is now free to choose to please God in word, thought and deed.
- The believer is risen indeed from death to life (because of the new law of the Spirit).

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:2) means:

1. We are all capable of sin. (We live in a corrupted body.)
2. We all possess the stain of sin in nature.
3. But we have all been delivered from the law of sin that seeks to rule our members.

(How are we free?)

1. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
2. This new power which can rule over the old power!
3. This new law which now supersedes the old law bent towards sin.

(Simple illustrations)

- ◆ You can go fishing, throw your line in the water with a sinker on it and the line is pulled down to the bottom. Put a cork or bobber on the same line and it will keep the line from sinking. Why? Because the one law supersedes the other law.
- ◆ You can weigh 150 lbs, not be able to swim and sink when you jump into the water. Yet, when you strap yourself to a 3 lb. flotation vest, you are lifted up by its power. The law of the vest overpowers and overrules the law of gravity that pulls you down. You're still in the water, but as long as you remain in the vest, you are raised by its power and ability. The law of the vest supersedes the law of gravity and weight.

(Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice!)

- ◆ Weights, temptations, enticements to sin – yes,
- ◆ But a greater power now rules us, which allows us to keep our heart clean and clear and free from contamination!!!

Fact: The law of sin leads to death!

Fact: But the law of the Spirit frees us from (or overpowers) the former law!

III. What Does It Mean That Christ Has Condemned Sin In The Flesh?

(V. 3) *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh."*

Fact: Before salvation we were in slavery to the rule and reign of sin.

Fact: Before salvation we were in bondage to an internal dictator that ruled and reigned.

Question: What did Jesus do to sin's rule at the cross?

Answer: *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh." (Romans 8:3)*

"Condemned sin in the flesh" means:

1. Jesus abolished the ruling principle of sin to call the shots in your life and mine.
2. Jesus destroyed Satan and sin in their power to overcome someone who is "in Christ".
3. Jesus delivered those "in Him" from the dictatorship, rule and authority of sin.

Yes: Sin still exists as an influence.

Yes: Sin can still attack all who believe.

Yes: Sin can continue to hurl its fiery darts of the world, flesh and the devil.

(But in Christ – we are dead to sin)

(In other words)

- ◆ Because Jesus gave his life to atone (cover) our sin, He condemned sin in the flesh (or) Jesus overcame, subdued and destroyed the power of sin to influence you as long as you cooperate with Jesus.

Question: What does it mean to cooperate with Jesus? (It means):

(V. 1) *"We walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."*

(V. 4) *"We mind not the things of the flesh, but those of the Spirit!"*

IV. What Does It Mean To Walk After The Spirit?

(V. 4) *"That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

In V. 1, no condemnation or guilt before God.

In V. 2, the same energy (or Spirit) that raised Jesus from the dead enables and energizes us to overcome sin.

In V. 3, Jesus has condemned sin in the flesh (and snapped its power line to dominate).

(In Verse 4)

- How do we react to Jesus condemning sin in the flesh?

(V.4) ***"We walk not after the flesh nature, but after the Spirit nature."***

(Which means)

- We don't live to gratify the corrupt desires that produce death.

(Instead)

- We live to gratify the impulses and promptings of the Holy Spirit that brings life and peace!!!

(How?)

- The word in our minds enables us to discern the source behind every urge, impulse and desire.

(I repeat)

1. If it is an urge from God, it will produce joy and peace.
2. If it is an urge from Satan, it will produce guilt and death.

Conclusion – Romans 7:

(V. 24) *"Who shall deliver us from the body of this death?"*

(v. 25) *"Jesus Christ our Lord."*

(In other words)

- Away with every objection in living to please God.
- Away with every excuse that pales in the face of scripture.
- Away with every delay in responding to the resurrected Christ.
- Away with every reason of why you cannot live victoriously over sin.
- Away with every hesitation as to why you're not enjoying post-resurrection living.
- Away with every lie of Satan who says God's power is not really your power!

Amen
Bill Kirk