

Release

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

No condemnation! This is the freedom cry of the believer. No more fear of destruction or guilt for sin. Release from the weight of judgment. There is passion and enthusiasm in Paul's statement as he begins this precious passage in the book of Romans. He knew the burden of his former actions and the disappointment of his current failures. Paul has just finished a description of his conflict between what he knew to do and ought to do and the failure of the flesh to accomplish it. He states in the last verse of chapter 7 that his deliverance is only in Christ, he shouts in exaltation the first verse of chapter 8.

Grasp the empowerment of this declaration. No more is the believer preoccupied with sin and guilt! No longer huddling in fear of judgment! Free to focus on acting in overflowing gratitude in the service of our marvelous Lord! He can serve the Lord Christ out of love instead of selfish motivation to seek favor or gain from his actions. What more does he have to gain? God has already given us His best and has promised to supply all our need. We serve from love and gratitude because of the marvelous liberty that removes all condemnation.

"But liberty may become license," you may say. As the Apostle would state, "God forbid!" On the contrary, this liberty takes away the morbid guilt and burden of conscience that would keep us from truly serving God in Spirit and in truth. As regenerated sinners, made holy and righteous before God, we willingly lay aside self and sin reveling in the joy of justification and balking at no sacrifice of self for the pleasure of our Savior, King, and Friend.

As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free."