

Life Group Notes
Sunday 14 October 2018

Speaker: Andy McCullough
Series: Heights of Love
Title: No Condemnation
Passage: Romans 8:1-3

Romans is the Himalayas of the New Testament. Romans 8 is Everest. Verses 15-17 are the summit! One commentator says that, by the time Paul reaches Romans 8, he is “almost singing.” Actually, Romans 8 is in the middle of the book, so we do need to understand what has happened so far. Paul has taken like the whole story of the world, all of the Old Testament, and condensed it into several key terms. We will try and understand these terms.

In the beginning God created **flesh** (vulnerable meat). Flesh is good, but it can go rotten. **Sin** is a dark power, like a toxic mist that infects everything under its dominion. Sin corrupts flesh. Sin also **enslaves** (totally dominates). Mankind are slaves of sin (Romans 6).

God will send Christ to make it all right. But until Christ comes, he sends a temporary intervention called **the Law (Torah)** (Romans 7). The law gets poisoned by the flesh, and turned from something good into something bad (Rom 8:3 says the law was “weakened by” or “made ill by” flesh).

Sin poisoned flesh and flesh poisoned the Law. That’s why religious rule-keeping is ugly, self-righteous, judgemental, destructive.

And so, hallelujah, God sends his Son. We are told why he came and how he came into the world (8:3).

Why? Jesus comes for sin. He is going to get sin. He is going to deal with it. He is going to destroy its power. He is going to smash Pharaoh and set the slaves free. **He comes for sin.**

How does he come? He comes in the likeness of sinful flesh. We read that “the Word become flesh.” Jesus has flesh, but not infected flesh like ours. Pure flesh, clean flesh, like Adam and Eve pre-sin.

Flesh is like a magnet for sin. So all of sin’s power gets focused onto Jesus. Sucked onto him. He is not corrupted by it – he has an immunity – but all the darkness rushes upon Jesus, and **God takes the opportunity to destroy sin by destroying Jesus**. The word in Romans 8 for this is **condemn**.

Not “God condemned Jesus,” but “God condemned sin in the flesh.”

One final twist to the tale. Jesus doesn’t stay dead. He rises, and then ascends in the clouds – as Spirit! **Sin was the dark power controlling his domain. The Spirit is the bright power controlling the new domain. Where sin made things dead, the Holy Spirit makes things alive! Controlling Spirit replaces controlling sin, and indwelling Spirit replaces indwelling sin.**

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Sin is condemned so that we are not. Sin is killed so that we are not.

- No condemnation now (verse 1).
- No slavery now (verse 2).
- No law now (verse 3).

Suggested Questions

- Why did Jesus have to take a body (become flesh)?
- Why are Christians no longer “under the law”?
- How does being indwelt by the Holy Spirit make a difference? Pray for one another to be indwelt by the “Spirit of Life”.