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By Dan Maines

## **Romans 8**

### **Romans 8:1**

Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.

† The great declaration of freedom begins here. Condemnation was tied to the Law, but in Christ, covenant judgment is removed. Isaiah 54:17 promised that no weapon formed against God's people would prosper, and Paul now shows this fulfilled.

† Josephus recorded that those outside of Christ faced condemnation in the destruction of Jerusalem, but Paul assures believers of their safety in Christ.

### **Romans 8:2**

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

† Two laws are contrasted. The Law of Moses produced sin and death. The Spirit of life in Christ frees from that dominion.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QS 3.13–4.26) speak of two spirits, one of light and one of darkness. Paul shows that the Spirit of Christ delivers from the dominion of death.

### **Romans 8:3-4**

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

† The Law could diagnose sin but could not cure it. God accomplished through Christ what the Law could never achieve.

† Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, condemning sin in His own body on the cross. The Law's righteous requirement is fulfilled in us who live by the Spirit.

† Early fathers like Irenaeus emphasized that Christ undid Adam's failure in His flesh, fulfilling what the Law required.

### **Romans 8:5-6**

For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death,

but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace.

† Two mindsets are contrasted: flesh brings death, Spirit brings life and peace. This aligns with Jeremiah 17:5-8, where trusting in flesh brought curse but trusting in God brought life.

† Philo described the flesh as prone to passions, but Paul explains that true life is found only in the Spirit of Christ.

### **Romans 8:7-8**

because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the Law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

† Fleshly mindsets are hostile to God. The Law could not transform the heart. Only the Spirit enables obedience.

† The Qumran sect described flesh as weak and incapable of pleasing God without divine intervention. Paul confirms this truth, but points to Christ as the answer.

### **Romans 8:9**

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

† Believers are in the Spirit, not the flesh. The mark of covenant identity is the indwelling Spirit, not circumcision or Torah.

† Origen explained that this verse shows the Spirit is essential to belonging to Christ, not optional.

### **Romans 8:10-11**

If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your

mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

† The body under sin is dead, but the Spirit brings life. This is not future physical resurrection but present covenant life given to God's people.

† Josephus described the corpses filling Jerusalem in AD 70 as the ultimate fruit of sin. Paul contrasts this with the Spirit that gives life to mortal bodies even now.

### **Romans 8:12-13**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, for if you are living in accord with the flesh, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

† Life in the Spirit requires putting to death the deeds of the flesh. Covenant life is incompatible with fleshly living.

### **Romans 8:14-15**

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons and daughters by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

† The Spirit makes believers sons of God, not slaves. Adoption language shows the intimacy of the New Covenant.

† The Mishnah (Kiddushin 1:1) spoke of sons bound by the law of fathers. Paul says we are adopted freely by God's Spirit, crying "Abba."

### **Romans 8:16-17**

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be

glorified with Him.

† The Spirit gives assurance of adoption. As heirs with Christ, suffering is part of the path to glory.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) recorded the sufferings of early Christians, fulfilling this text.

### **Romans 8:18**

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

† The sufferings of the first-century saints under Roman and Jewish persecution were great, but incomparable to the glory about to be revealed.

† Futurists misplace this into our age, but Paul says it applied to their present time.

### **Romans 8:19-21**

For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

† Creation here refers to the covenant world, not the physical universe. Israel groaned under futility until the revealing of God's sons in Christ.

† Josephus described Israel's corruption leading to destruction. Paul shows the New Covenant brought freedom from this bondage.

### **Romans 8:22-23**

For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.

† The creation groaned under the Old Covenant. Believers groaned too, awaiting full covenant adoption and the redemption of the body, meaning the body of Christ.

† The Spirit as first fruits guaranteed this fulfillment in that generation.

### **Romans 8:24-25**

For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, through perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

† Salvation was already begun but awaited consummation in AD 70. Hope was necessary until its visible fulfillment.

### **Romans 8:26-27**

Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

† The Spirit intercedes in weakness. This shows the intimate help of God to His people in the midst of tribulation.

### **Romans 8:28**

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according

to His purpose.

† God works all things for covenant good. Even persecution served to advance His purpose.

### **Romans 8:29-30**

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

† God's plan was complete. Foreknowledge, predestination, calling, justification, and glorification were already accomplished in Christ's people.

### **Romans 8:31-32**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

† Paul climaxes with confidence in God's provision. If God gave His Son, He will surely give all covenant blessings.

### **Romans 8:33-34**

Who will bring charges against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, but rather, was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

† No charge can stand against God's elect. Christ intercedes as the risen Lord.

### **Romans 8:35-36**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or trouble, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or

sword? Just as it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We were regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

† Paul quotes Psalm 44:22. The suffering of God's people was intense, but nothing could separate them from Christ's love.

### **Romans 8:37-39**

But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Absolute assurance concludes the chapter. Nothing in creation, covenant, or spiritual realm can separate God's people from His love in Christ.

† Futurism undermines this by pushing hope into a future age. Paul says victory and security are present realities.

### **How it applies to us today**

† There is no condemnation for those in Christ. Our covenant life is secure.

† The Spirit empowers us to overcome sin and weakness.

† Our sufferings cannot compare to the glory revealed in Christ's fulfilled work.

† Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. This confidence sustains us in every trial.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

## Source Index

† Isaiah 54:17 – No weapon against God's people prospers

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.9.3 – Condemnation of unbelievers in AD 70

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QS 3.13–4.26 – Two spirits of light and darkness

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.18 – Christ undoes Adam's failure

† Philo, Allegorical Interpretation – The passions of the flesh

† Mishnah, Kiddushin 1:1 – Sons bound under fathers' law

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – Persecution of Christians under Nero

† Psalm 44:22 – God's people regarded as sheep to be slaughtered

† Origen, Commentary on Romans – Spirit as essential mark of belonging to Christ

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