

WHAT RELIGION DIDN'T TEACH ME Romans 8:1-11

For many, having some type of a religious experience or background is common place. Now, what we learned during our experience is an entirely different story. Religion tends to focus on rules and changing our behavior to make us better in order to be accepted by God. Sound familiar? There is only one thing that can do what religion claims to do (make us right with God and keep us right with God)...

Does No Condemnation Mean Sometimes Condemnation? (1-2)

verse1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- The **therefore** here pushes us back to everything we have learned up to this point in Romans. We are brought into a relationship with Christ (and kept in that relationship) completely apart from anything we have done. Because of what Christ has done, there is **no condemnation** (κατάκριμα - damnatory sentence) **for those who are in Christ Jesus**. Condemnation is literally the opposite of justification.

verse2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

- Here is part of the reason why we no longer face condemnation. The **law of the Spirit of life** (i.e. the gospel, justification, salvation, truth) has set us free from the **law of sin and death**. This is your hope. This is who you are. **You are free in Christ Jesus**. You do not live under the weight of sin, law, death & condemnation.

God Did What Nothing Else Could Do (3-8)

verse3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

- The flesh has **weakened** (ἀσθενέω - powerless) the **law**. It will never have the power to save us from our sins. - What the law could never accomplish because of sin God accomplished by **sending his OWN Son**. What happened to the condemnation? It was placed on God's **own** (ἑαυτοῦ - personal reflexive pronoun - himself) **son**. - He did so by coming in the **likeness of sinful flesh**; meaning he came resembling something in equality & identity (ὁμοίωμα). Our sinful flesh was absorbed by Christ's sinless flesh.

verse4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

- We now **walk according to the power of the Spirit**, inwardly. No longer do we **walk** (περιπατῶ - progress) **according to the flesh**. There is an actual power source in our lives (**the Spirit** - who gives us power: Acts 1:8) from which we operate.

verse5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

- This is the differentiation, the contrast between believers and non-believers.

verse6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

- Apart from death and life (the obvious markers of being unregenerate or regenerate), why does Paul reference peace?

verse7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. verse8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- A spiritually dead person is **hostile** (ἐχθρῶν - enemy) **to God**. They do not **submit** (ὑποτάσσω - arrange myself under) **to God's law** because **indeed, [they] cannot** (the root is δύναμι which is where we get dynamite from. Put a negative - a - in front of it and you've got "no dynamite"). There is no power to **please God** (ἀρέσκω - accommodate to the desires of God) and do what is right consistently.

A Brand New Vantage Point (9-11)

verse 9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

- Not only are we operating with the Spirit's power but the **Spirit of God dwells in [us]**. This tells us that the Spirit of God sets up house in our lives.

verse10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

- We know that the body is unredeemed (we learned this in chapter 7). However, our spirit (our essence) has been given **life** on account of righteousness and what Jesus accomplished. Because of Christ's sacrifice and that now we have the HS indwelling us, we have a **spirit of life**...

verse11 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 ultimate extension of being under new ownership is that our unredeemed bodies, though headed to death with a one-way ticket, will be raised one day from the dead by the same power source that raised Jesus from the dead...the Spirit of God!

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