

## *No Condemnation*

### **Romans 8:1-4**

**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 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, 4 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.**

The moment we entered the world we were marred by sin. This is called original sin caused by the sin of the first people on earth, Adam and Eve. To this, each person has added daily actual sins. In the meaning to the fifth petition we read “we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment.” And from that same source we have have “We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that he would give them all to us by grace.” God’s Law declares that all people are guilty of sin and deserve to die.

Paul now concisely summarizes God’s reverse declaration for those in Christ: “Not guilty!” Luther states: “We fell under God’s wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, just as we had merited and deserved. There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God – in His immeasurable goodness – had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness. He came from heaven to help us (John 1:9). So those tyrants and jailers are all expelled now. In their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation. He has delivered us poor, lost people from fell’s jaws, has won us, has made us free (Romans 8:1-2), and has brought us again into the Father’s favor and grace.” (LC II 28-30) (TLSB)

The word “no” in the Greek makes it even more emphatic, “not a single condemnation of any kind. The image is that of a criminal who awaits the judge’s just penalty, but then hears instead that the sentence has been commuted. Every charge was silenced at the cross. The Christian’s life is marked by this freedom and this certainty of God’s mercy in Christ. Because of our connection with Christ the Spirit frees us for living in the spirit. As Christians we need not fear because we serve God’s law with our real self, with our renewed mind and will, because we have pleasure in God’s law and, on the other hand, hate and abhor evil. God judges Christians according to the new man, not according to the old man, and does not lay to their account what evil the flesh does. (Concordia Pulpit Resources – Volume 12, Part 2)

Prayer: Father, by Your Spirit, direct our hearts to Christ, where true joys are found. Amen. (TLSB)