

**All Citizens Christian Church Calgary**

**Bible Study:** Tuesday, July 15th, 2025. **Topic: THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS 8**

**FREED AND PREPARED FOR GLORY**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In chapter 7, Apostle Paul proved prove to us that since we are dead to the law, we are not under the law and the law does not have authority over us. In chapter 8, he continued his argument by saying based on what we agreed in chapter 7, there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit. Romans 8 reveals the glorious reality of life in the Spirit for believers, freeing them from the dominion of sin and leading them into a secure and hopeful future as children of God. The chapter is powerhouse of Christian truth, often considered the pinnacle of Paul's theological argument. It moves from our freedom in Christ to our glorious future with Him, all empowered by the Holy Spirit.

**I. No Condemnation & Freedom in Christ (Romans 8:1-8)**

* **Key Verse:** "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (v. 1)
	+ **No Condemnation (v. 1):** This is the foundational truth.
	+ **Walking According to the Spirit (v. 1, 4):** This phrase clarifies *how* we live out our freedom.
	+ **The Law of the Spirit of Life (v. 2):** The Holy Spirit, through Christ, gives us new life and frees us from the "law of sin and death"
	+ **What the Law Could Not Do (v. 3-4):** The Old Testament Law was good, but it was weak because of our sinful human nature.
	+ **Mindset Matters (v. 5-8):** Paul contrasts two mindsets:
		- **Carnally Minded (Flesh):** Focused on self, sinful desires, and earthly things.
		- **Spiritually Minded (Spirit):** Focused on God, His will, and the things of the Spirit.

**Discussion**

* 1. What does "no condemnation" truly mean to you personally? How does this truth impact your daily life and understanding of your relationship with God?
	2. How would you describe the difference between "walking according to the flesh" and "walking according to the Spirit" in practical terms?

**II. Sonship Through the Spirit (Romans 8:9-17)**

* **Key Verse:** "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." (v. 14)
	+ **Indwelling Spirit (v. 9-11):** If you are a true believer, the Holy Spirit *dwells* in you.
	+ **Our Debt (v. 12-13):** We are not obligated to live according to our old sinful nature.
	+ **Led by the Spirit = Sons of God (v. 14):** A key indicator of our sonship is being led by the Spirit.
	+ **Spirit of Adoption (v. 15):** We have not received a spirit of fear or slavery, but a Spirit that confirms our adoption as God's children.
	+ **Witness of the Spirit (v. 16-17):** The Holy Spirit Himself testifies with our own spirit that we are children of God.

**Discussion**

* 1. How does the reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit encourage you in your walk with God?
	2. What does it mean practically to "put to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit"? Can you think of an example from your own life?

**III. From Suffering to Glory (Romans 8:18-30)**

* **Key Verse:** "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (v. 18)
	+ **Future Glory Outweighs Present Suffering (v. 18):** Paul acknowledges present sufferings but places them in the context of an immeasurable future glory that awaits believers.
	+ **Creation's Groaning (v. 19-22):** Not just humans, but all of creation eagerly awaits the "revealing of the sons of God."
	+ **Our Own Groaning (v. 23-25):** Even with the "first fruits of the Spirit" (Holy spirit), II Cor 1:22.
	+ **Spirit's Help in Weakness (v. 26-27):** The Holy Spirit understands our weaknesses, especially in prayer. When we don't know how to pray, He intercedes for us with "groanings which cannot be uttered," aligning our prayers with God's will.
	+ **God's Sovereign Purpose (v. 28-30):** This is a cornerstone verse. "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."
		- **Foreknew:** God knew us beforehand.
		- **Predestined:** He determined our destiny to be conformed to Christ's image.
		- **Called:** He effectually called us to Himself.
		- **Justified:** He declared us righteous through Christ.
		- **Glorified:** Our future glorification is so certain, it's spoken of as already done.

**Discussion**

* 1. How does understanding the future glory impact your perspective on current sufferings or challenges?
	2. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you in your weakness, particularly in prayer?
	3. Reflect on Romans 8:28. What does it mean to you that "all things work together for good"? How does the "golden chain of salvation" (v. 29-30) provide assurance of your salvation?

**IV. God's Everlasting Love (Romans 8:31-39)**

* **Key Verse:** "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" (v. 35) and "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (v. 37)
	+ **God For Us (v. 31-32):** If God is on our side, who can ultimately be against us?
	+ **No Condemnation or Charge (v. 33-34):** Who can accuse God's chosen ones? God Himself justifies us. Who can condemn? Christ died, rose, is at God's right hand, and intercedes for us!
	+ **Unbreakable Love (v. 35-39):** Paul lists various tribulations and dangers (tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword), Psalm 44:22.

**Discussion**

* 1. How does the truth that "God is for us" empower you to face challenges?
	2. What comfort do you draw from knowing that Christ intercedes for you at the right hand of God?