

**DESIDERATA<sup>1</sup>**  
**GOD'S EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION**  
**ALDERWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**Romans 8:1-17**

**BIG IDEA: JESUS PAID IT ALL—ALL TO HIM I OWE!**

**Griffith Thomas:** *as Godet says, the chapter begins with “no condemnation,” and ends with “no separation,” while in between, as C. A. Fox remarks, there is “no defeat.”*<sup>2</sup>

I. FREED FROM CONDEMNATION (Verses 1-4)

NOTE: **Therefore** refers to the past several chapters of argument about the condemnation of law. This word **condemnation** [*katakrino*], occurs only here and in **5:16, 18**,

1. I am freed from eternal condemnation by my grace/faith standing **in Christ Jesus**. (Verse 1)

• Expression “in Christ” used **11X in Romans**.

• **21X in I, II Corinthians**

• **53X in other Pauline Epistles**

2. I am freed by a new “life” principle (law). (Verse 2)—as opposed to the old sin/death principle (law)

*“To run and work the law commands,  
Yet gives me neither feet nor hands;  
But better news the gospel brings:  
It bids me fly, and gives me wings.”*

Also **Manson**:

*Moses’ law has right but not might;*

*Sin’s law has might but not right;*

*The law of the Spirit has both right and might.*

3. The impotence of the Law had nothing to do with intrinsic defectiveness—it had everything to do with human weakness (“sinful nature”=“flesh” (*sarx*))

4. God solved our spiritual impasse by sending *his own Son*”

a. *in the likeness of sinful man*—lit., “sinful flesh” (*sarkos*).

• Jesus was not sinful, but his humanity was as **real** as ours. He was everything we are, yet without sin. He was subject to injury, fatigue, sorrow, and death.

b. *to be a sin offering*—lit., **for sin**—the word “offering” is supplied.

• **2 Corinthians 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

5. **Romans 8:4** *in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

a. Note the **passivity** of me. I didn’t meet the demands of the law. They were met in me.

b. Who accomplished that? God did. It **started** with my **grace-based/faith-triggered justification**.

• *Sinful nature=flesh* (*sarx*).

c. The statement about life-style is a clarification of who the “us” is. It is redeemed people who are being **practically sanctified**, i.e., *living according to the Spirit*.

• Notice that what God did for us in Christ not only meets the demands of the punishment, but meets the demands of daily living too “**according to the Spirit**” (verse 4)

• God has not only done something about getting us **out of Hell** and **into Heaven**, He has done something about getting us **out of sinfulness** and **into holiness** right now. That’s what these verses are about.

<sup>1</sup> *Desideratum: Something considered necessary or highly desirable.*

<sup>2</sup> Quoted in Leon Morris, 299.

- In other words, *When we came to know him and to receive the indwelling Holy Spirit we were able to attain a standard we could never reach in our own strength.*—**Leon Morris.**

II. FREED FROM MIND-CONTROL (Verses 5-8)

1. *Those who live according to*=my behavior steers my mind. What I do with my body dictates what I do with my mind.
2. *Sinful man/Sinful/Sinful nature*=all of these are *Sarkos*
3. Verse 7 and 8: Note the attributes of flesh:
  - a. Hostile to God
  - b. Non-submissive to God
  - c. Powerless to submit to God
  - d. Incapable of pleasing God.
4. Who are these people? Clearly they are unregenerate people.

III. FREED FROM PHYSICAL DEATH (Verses 9-11)

- **Romans 1:4**, “*declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*”
  - **I Corinthians 15:17**, “*And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.*”
1. “**Apart from** the anticipatory mention of the Spirit in **Romans 5:5...**[and **1:4** and **7:6**, the new way of the Spirit,] this is the **first mention** in the Epistle where the Spirit of God enters the argument. It is **no accident** that with His entry there is **no further talk of defeat**. The warfare between the two natures still goes on, but where the Holy Spirit is in control the old nature is compelled to give way.” (FF Bruce, p. 160)
    - The Spirit appears **21X** here in **Romans 8**—only **2** of those do not refer to the **Holy Spirit**. [only **6X** more in the rest of Romans].
  2. The truth about the Holy Spirit in our lives:
    - a. **If you’re saved, you have the presence Holy Spirit , 8:9b.**
    - b. **If you’re saved, you have the power of the Holy Spirit working in you, 8:9a.**
    - c. **If you’re saved, you have the passion of the Holy Spirit in you, 8:5.**
    - d. **If you’re saved, you have the posture of the Holy Spirit in you, 8:6-7.**
    - e. **If you’re saved, you have the promise (of resurrection) of the Holy Spirit in you, 8:11.**
    - f. **If you’re saved, you have the pathfinding of the Holy Spirit in you, 8:14.**
    - g. **If you’re saved, you have the profession of the Holy Spirit in you, 8:16.**

IV. FREED FROM OBLIGATION TO THE SINFUL NATURE (Verses 12-17)

1. We Must Remember Our **Privilege**—We are in the family of God
  - That means that we have the honor of being called by our Heavenly Father’s name. We are known as His **children** (v. 16).
  - We have the privilege of **intimacy in prayer**, Abba = “daddy” in Aramaic. (v. 15)
  - We have the **status** of **adopted sons**. In **8:15**, it actually says, “*the Spirit of adoption.*”
  - We are **heirs** (v. 17, “*heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.*”)
2. We Must Discharge Our **Obligation**

“*If you think of this world as a place intended simply for our happiness, you find it quite intolerable: think of it as a place of training and correction and it’s not so bad.*”

“*Imagine a set of people all living in the same building. Half of them think it is a hotel, the other half think it is a prison. Those who think it a hotel might regard it as quite intolerable, and those who thought it was a prison might be deiced that it was really surprisingly comfortable. So that what seems the ugly doctrine is one that comforts and strengthens you in the end. The people who try to hold and optimistic view of this world would become pessimists: the people who hold a pretty stern view of it become optimistic.*” (C. S. Lewis in God in the Dock, Eerdmans, 1970, p. 52)

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