

THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION:

GOD'S PROMISE THROUGH THE CROSS

GOD'S PROMISE:

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

Romans 8:1

MY PROMISE

I will find my forgiveness in the complete work of Jesus.

The question that could frighten us the most is,

"What if having done all I can, I have not done enough?"

Our humanity will continue to play a principal part in our walk with God. It is important to know that humanly speaking, to do more, be better, have greater achievements; they will not be enough to enjoy God's favor. The other extreme is the person who due to having recognized that this seems to be a dead end street, simply decides to live in unbelief, mockery, and exasperated, declaring that the God of the believers is impossible to please.

That is why it has nothing to do with either!

God does everything!

Bible Reading: Romans 7:15; 21-8:4

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO - Romans 7:15

In one of Saint Paul's most candid moments of his life, he writes a phrase that summarizes the predicament we saw at the beginning. Either we become exasperated for not having been able to please God or we try to win His favor.

Paul shows us that nobody is exempt from feeling as if we do not measure up! "I do not do what I want to, but only what I hate, I do." Have you ever felt like that?

EVIL IS IN ME – Romans 7:21-24

Paul quickly detects a truth. Even though with our mind and with our desires we try to please God, "the law of sin" continues to operate in our "members." In other words, our eyes, our hands, our feet, our mouth, continue to be bound to that sinful nature that takes us to "see", "say", "act" in ways that we know are against the will of God. What a great burden!

Part of the dilemma is that the salvation that we enjoy also awakens in us a conscience that we are sinners. That reality takes us to always be "alert" to that "evil that is in me." Instead of fighting against it, I have to recognize it and face it. Does my salvation depend upon that? No, but that helps me to keep a life that is conscience of that which "lives in me" so that it does not take me down a mistaken road.

THANK GOD FOR JESUS CHRIST – Romans 7:25

We can thank Paul for being so candid but we should also thank him for the revelation. His identity does not depend upon a sinful nature. His victory is found in Jesus Christ.

You and I are sold to this human and sinful nature, but in Jesus Christ I have the assurance that even though my mind serves God – that is – I am conscience that I am a new creation even though that "in the flesh" I serve the law of sin. This tension, even though it is real and daily, is subject to the victory that is in Jesus.

THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION – Romans 8:1-4

Paul's sincerity has a purpose. He wants us to see two sides of the same coin. The coin that we are. On one side, we are in this constant battle of conscience, body given to the sinful nature, but on the other side, we live under a divine verdict. We do not live under condemnation.

Because we have decided to live under the redeeming, work of Jesus on the cross and have accepted that now the Holy Spirit lives in us. All condemnation or guilt that sinful nature brings with it is absorbed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Look at how it is stated. "What was impossible for the law, because it was weak because of the flesh, God sent His Son in the image of sinful flesh and because of sin, condemned the flesh." Verse 3.

In other words, the incarnation of Christ and His death on the cross of Calvary, makes everything go in reverse everything that is guilt that could bring my human nature. He was made human and therefore that guilt fell on Him and made me free! Glory to God!

RECOMENDATION - Romans 8:5

In order to live in total trust, it is necessary to walk according to the Spirit. That Spirit offers freedom and joy. It testifies that I am a son of God. It cancels every accusation that I can think of.

Therefore, when my flesh wants to think for me, since I belong to Christ and am full of the Holy Spirit, I will think just like the Spirit thinks and will say, "There is now no condemnation for me, since I am in Christ Jesus and I walk according to the Spirit."

A little farther ahead, in Romans 8 we are reminded that we are, "More than conquerors through Him who loved us." (verse 37)

Complain, every once in a while, but glorify God more frequently because you are not a slave of the law of sin anymore!