

As a Christian there are lots of precious truths that mean so much to me. Often I dwell on the fact that salvation is such an overwhelming gift. However, one of the constant struggles I had, particularly early in my Christian walk, was how to live this new found faith in Christ?

It is comforting to know that this very issue is dealt with in the New Testament. In Romans chapter 7 Paul talks about the impact of the law on our conscience. The law reveals to us that we are sinners. Romans 3v20 says *“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”*

So we discover, like Paul did, that the law is good in that it reveals us as sinners, but it does not have the power to set us free from the power of sin. Then in Romans 7v18 Paul declares every new Christian’s dilemma; *“For I know that in me (that is, my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.”*

Often God will allow failure in our Christian walk so that we realise we cannot live the Christian life. We need to see what we are in ourselves, so that we will gladly abandon our flesh life to a life of complete dependence upon God.

Romans 7v24-25 declares Paul’s understanding of this principle; *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord...”*

PRAISE the Lord for:

- A number of people indicating that the paper has been well received with their outreach programs
- The incredible amount of precious gifts we have received for the various projects areas around the world for the coming year as well as a number of gifts towards the running for our office
- The ongoing commitments to Christ from prisoners around the world. We work in various prisons - South Africa 252 prisons, USA 400, Malawi 27

Then in Roman 8v1-2 the impact of this revelation is explained to us. On the basis of the finished work of Calvary there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

The word “CONDEMNATION” has two meanings that underline the immediate effect of placing our faith in Christ.

Firstly it has the meaning of a person who has been accused of an offence and is standing before a judge awaiting his decision. The judge lifts his gavel and declares him not guilty. Why? Because the blood of Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for our sin in full. So we are justified. Romans 5v1 *“Having been justified by faith we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The blood of Jesus Christ has made us as though we had not sinned.

Secondly the word “condemnation” has the meaning of a couple who have a house mortgage. The day comes when they make their last payment and so the house is unencumbered – debt free – no more to be paid. That is exactly what happened at Calvary. The debt for our sin has been paid in full by the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The cross of Christ has not only dealt with the penalty of sin, but also the power of sin. Roman 8:2 *“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death”.*

The law could not deliver you and me from the power of sin, but the cross of Christ has. Notice how Paul says that the “law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free...” It is a reality, at least in theory, but only becomes a reality as we trust completely in the risen Christ.

PRAYER needed for:

- The thousands of Challenge stands placed around the world in areas like shopping centres, cafés, doctor/dental surgeries, restaurants, community halls etc. Pray each paper will be a precious seed and each stand will be protected from vandalism
- Commitments to the Lord Jesus Christ from the paper’s use and for follow up needed
- Testimonies for the various editions of Challenge. We are always looking for people willing to share their conversion story
- A number of our staff here in Australia and also South Africa as they battle some health issues. Please pray with us for their healing

Again and again I have met Christians who have been mistakenly trying to overcome sin in their own strength, only to become totally frustrated and dis-couraged. Why? Well we need to see sin as a law, just like gravity is a law. No matter how hard I try to resist gravity I can’t overcome it in and of myself.

Just watch an aircraft weighing hundreds of tons suddenly lift off the ground. How does that happen? Because the law of gravity has been replaced by the law of aerodynamics.

At Calvary the law of sin and death was replaced by the law of the Spirit of life. Faith is what makes this a reality so that we can live consistent godly lives in Christ Jesus.



{ CARL CARMODY
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

Challenge Direct Deposit details :

BSB: 066162 (Commbank)
Account: 00900455

AU.CHALLENGE.NEWS

Contact us by phone (08) 9453 3311
Email: info@challengenews.org