

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

BIBLE TEXT : Romans 8:1-39.

LESSON 353 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Romans 8:1-39

- 1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- 6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.
- 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.
- 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
- 10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.
- 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.
- 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye

Bible References:

Notes:

Condemnation for Sin

With all his heart Paul could say, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Jesus had set him free from sin and was now his Master.

Condemnation is that something, which makes one feel bad, ashamed or guilty for a wrong deed committed or evil word spoken. Just as a dark cloud on a windy day may blow across the sky and cover the sun, so a cloud of condemnation comes over the soul and hides the face of God when one commits sin. God's smile is not on that one; God's glory does not shine into the heart. But condemnation settles over the soul like a thick fog. One's face, too, usually reveals the guilt that is on the heart.

But when that one seeks God and repents of his sin and receives forgiveness, and asks forgiveness of those he has wronged, all condemnation lifts from his heart and he is free from guilt. Then he can say that there is now no condemnation.

At one time, Paul had a great deal of condemnation on his heart. Satan was his master, and Paul obeyed that master, too. When the evil one told Paul to persecute the people of God, to bind them and have them put into prison, he did that. But all was changed in Paul's life that day when he met Jesus on the Damascus road. How bright was the light that shone upon him and how deep was the darkness that settled over him on his way to the city of Damascus! How deep must have been the condemnation Paul felt when he realised that he had been hurting Jesus of Nazareth as well as His followers! He was sorry -- very sorry; he asked Jesus to forgive him. When Paul was saved, all condemnation was removed from his heart. As the scales fell from his eyes, he received his sight, and at once Paul began working for Jesus Christ, his new Master.

Two Masters

"No man can serve two masters" (Matthew 6:24). Every person is serving either Christ or Satan. It is possible to change masters, and that is what Paul did.

You ask, "How can I have Christ as my Master?" Simply by praying an earnest prayer to God, asking Him to forgive your sins, and telling Him that you will serve Him. In His Word we read, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). When the Blood of Jesus covers your soul, all sin is forgiven and you become happy and free. Condemnation is removed from the heart and you have power to go and sin no more. A new start in life! A new heart! A new Master to serve! "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

Danger in Sin

Satan is a hard master for one to serve. He promises happiness, health, wealth, and life; instead, he gives disappointment, sickness, poverty, and death. Do not tamper with sin; do not think that you can toy with evil. Do not think that you can enjoy a few of the lesser sins and their "harmless pleasures," for soon you will be indulging in greater sins and more harmful pleasures which may land your soul in eternal torment. Get rid of sin today. If you do not kill sin, it will kill you.

In some places along the coast of Britain and Scotland, it sometimes happens that a person walking along the sand will suddenly find that the sand seems to become sticky and the soles of the shoes cling to it. Although the coast may appear dry, the footprint is filled with water. One may walk on entirely unaware of the danger. Suddenly the sand covers his feet. He turns back, but with every step he sinks more deeply into the sand.

shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected *the same* in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, *then* do we with patience wait for *it*.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of*

Terrorised, he finds that he is sinking into quicksand. He throws down his burden, but it is too late. The sand soon reaches to his knees, then to his waist, to the chest, to the neck. He cries out, but soon his mouth is filled with sand, and he is silenced. Then his eyes are covered and he is in the night of a horrible death! How much like the danger of sin! It may not work as fast as quicksand, but it is just as powerful. First a "sweet morsel," then a little more indulgence, and soon one finds himself trapped in the fast-engulfing terrors that lead to destruction. There is only one Arm that can help in such an emergency; there is only One who can save from death. "Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee" (Psalm 50:15).

Sufferings Rewarded

It was a great relief to Paul to have this new Master, Jesus Christ — yes, a new Father, even God Himself. This made Paul an heir to a kingdom, although his earthly possessions were but few. Paul knew that if he suffered with Jesus here, he would some day be glorified with Him. A "crown of righteousness" (II Timothy 4:8), he knew, awaited him.

If we suffer a little for Christ, what of it? That is not to be compared with the glory that is to come, Paul said. Whenever you feel that the life of a Christian means denying yourself too much of the pleasures of this world, just think of what Paul said: "For to be carnally minded is death" (Romans 8:6). When you feel that perhaps the people of the world are getting more pleasures out of life than you who are a Christian, think of Paul who said: "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die." Think of the end. Think of the day when the high, low, rich, and poor shall all stand before the righteous Judge. Then what will be the fate of those who live only for the present?

"But," you say, "when I decide to press in a little harder and pray more, I have more trials than when I just drift along." That may be true, but you also have more grace to go through the trials. Paul had learned that no matter what the trial or test, "all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28). So if Satan tries to tempt you along the way by placing obstacles in your path, just say: "I may not understand why this happened to me, but I do know that I love the Lord with all my heart, and he loves me, and he would not permit it to come unless it will work for my good."

The Love of Christ

Paul ends this chapter by asking a question and giving the answer. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Trouble, lack of food or clothing, danger, war, death, life, angels, powers, distance or people — none of these are able to separate us from the love of Christ. His love never fails.

Does that mean that once one is saved, he may never backslide and be lost? No, it does not mean that. It is true that Christ's love never changes, but unless one keeps very close to Him by watching and reading God's Word often and praying much, one's love for Him may grow cold. If it does, he is on dangerous ground, for as he walks farther and farther away from the Lord he is getting closer to the world, and soon he is no longer a child of the Father. Once more condemnation clouds his life. Are you free from condemnation?

QUESTIONS

1. Whose testimony is recorded in Romans 8?
2. What does it mean to walk after the flesh? After the Spirit?
3. How do we know whether we are sons of God?
4. What does it mean to be separated from the love of Christ?
5. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"
6. For whom do all things work together for good?
7. How do present sufferings of a Christian compare with the future?
8. What does it mean to be carnally minded? Spiritually minded?

God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.