

No Condemnation Living

“There is, therefore, now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

1. The Basis for this Truth

A house that is battered by the stormy winds of life cannot stand without a firm foundation. It's the same with our confidence in this verse. Paul includes the word, “therefore,” to point us back to the basis for the truth of this verse. All that he labored to get across in chapters 1-7 leads him to this glorious conclusion. To claim this verse as ours, we must understand that it is not based on an ongoing process of what we do or don't do but on a once for all pronouncement that we have been made right with God based on what Christ has done in our place. (See Rom. 3:21-26, 5:1,16-21). The storms of sin, suffering, and various circumstances will cause us to doubt our place in this verse and thus, we must be clear on its basis, to stand by faith on its truth.

2. The Heart of this Truth

One word gets at the heart of this truth. “Now.” Right *now*. Not this morning because I read my Bible. Not tonight because I tried my best today. Not next week because I broke that bad habit. No. Right now. The heart of this truth means that this is a present reality to be believed and experienced by the believer. When we feel the guilt and shame of our sin, we must dwell on what is real, not just on how we feel. Our feelings will betray us to believe that God is no longer for us. We must live and dwell on that word, “now.”

3. The Recipients of this Truth

Who gets in on this glorious truth? Those who have done their best? Those people who have not failed today? Those who are always at church on Sunday mornings? No. Those who are “in Christ Jesus.” Our union with Christ by faith alone causes us to find rest for our souls and be among those who receive the peace and the power of this truth.

4. The Implications of this Truth

1.) Knowing the ‘now’ of this verse enables us to fight for victory over our sin. Because we know that we are not fighting from condemnation for victory, but from victory (the victory Christ won in our place) for victory. 2) We also have the freedom, not to live anyway we want, but the freedom to live radical lives for God because we are not living *for* our salvation, but *from* our salvation. We live out the freedom of God's grace received by faith alone. 3) Finally, although our Father does not approve of our sinful actions and will discipline us accordingly, His discipline is in love *for* us, not *against* us. In Christ, we no longer stand under God's judgment for our sin, but under His ‘Fatherly’ love to correct us and to conform us to His Son.