

Introduction:

- Reread 7:24-25
- This chapter contains no sharp breaks but four major sections.
 - One - The key word is **life**. The Spirit of Life. 1-13
 - Two - The Spirit of adoption. 14-17
 - Three - Hope. We are heirs with Jesus and an heir must wait for the full receiving of the inheritance. 18-30
 - Four - a celebration! vs 31-39, This section celebrates all of 1-30 and brings to a close the exposition of chapters 5-8.
- Prominent to chapter 8 is the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - The word, "πνεῦμα" is used almost once every two verses.
 - One of the most exciting facets of the chapter is that Paul uses the word 'Spirit' 21 in the chapter.
 - Paul's focus is on what the Spirit does, not just on who He is.
 - His point to make sure the believer realize what has been given to Him through faith in Christ. There are numerous blessings that are intended to bring **assurance** to the Christian. Those blessings range from 'No condemnation' at the start of 8 to the 'no separation' at the end of 8.

I. **No Condemnation!** vs. 1-13

- A. The Gospel: A holy God, stands over sinful man, with glaring wrath, then a perfect Savior, Jesus crucified and risen, we justified by faith and sanctified by faith. This is the Gospel that Paul preaches! Therefore, in view of all of that...
 1. *"There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* (Romans 8:1, NKJV)
 2. Paul is thinking of the believers deliverance from the penalty and power of sin.
 - a) Justified - God action.
 - b) Sanctified - my daily right choices.
 - c) DELIVERED!!
 3. We were lost, separated from God, doomed, but there is one who delivers! Jesus took our place!
- B. Now, no condemnation
 1. "Now" has to do with time. "Not now" vs. 'now' This is the 'now' that comes after waiting. IE. Like a gift given but not allowed to open.
 2. The other 'now' is the one that comes before you thought it would come. Ie. "I said I would give this to you on your birthday but take it now." This is the now that comes before its time.
 3. Finally the time has come for all of those who lived under the condemnation of the law, those lawbreakers who could see a righteousness they could never achieve, finally the time has come for the ungodly to be justified by faith!
 4. Finally, NOW! There is therefore no condemnation! The wrath of God has been appeased another has taken our place.
 5. *"Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us*

and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us." (Romans 8:33-34, NLT)

- C. For those in Christ
 1. Only those who are in Christ Jesus can say there is no condemnation.
 2. Note the difference of 8:1 In Christ to 9:3 cut off from Christ!
 3. Your standing before God in Christ is this: there is NOW no condemnation (both now and future; end of age).
 - a) Not for any accusation the devil may bring.
 - b) Not for any accusation 'Jobs' friends may bring.
 - c) Not for any accusation you may bring to yourself.

II. The Power of the Life Giving Spirit

- A. Blessings of the Spirit
 1. vs. 9 We are controlled by the Spirit because the Spirit lives in us.
 2. vs. 10 The Spirit gives me life because I have been made right with God.
 3. vs. 13 By the power of the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the flesh.
 4. vs. 14 Those led by the Spirit are children of God.
- B. Freedom from the law (principal) of sin and death.
 1. The Spirit carries more authority/power than sin or death. *"It is God's Spirit, coming to the believer with power and authority, who brings liberation from the powers of the old age and from the condemnation that is the lot of all who are imprisoned by those powers."* Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT ROMANS (p. 476). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 2. Vs. 3. It was God acting through His Son that was able to accomplish more than the law ever could.
 - a) God by sending His Son in the flesh condemned sin! The condemnation that we deserved has been poured out on Christ.
 - b) Believers are no longer condemned because in Christ sin has already been condemned.
 - c) vs 4 states the purpose as to why God did this:
 3. The Law of the Spirit vs. 2; Jer 31:31-34; Ez 36:24-32. Written on the heart.
 4. Compare the liberation of 8:2 with the captivity of 7:23.
 - a) The Spirit rules the new age over the law (binding powers of sin and death).
 - b) This gives us great hope!
 - c) Everything that Paul has presented in 5-7, power of sin and power of law is made subject to the power of the Spirit therefore, no condemnation.

III. Following the Spirit vs 4

- A. The Holy Spirit is the agent of all this activity! Just as he was when He hovered over the waters in Genesis. (The first creation vs. this new creation)
- B. The walk in the Spirit
 1. *those who "walk according to the Spirit."* To quote Augustine's famous formulation, *"Law was given that grace might be sought, grace was given that the law might be fulfilled."* Moo, D. J. (1996). Romans (p. 482). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

2. To walk according to the flesh," is to have one's life determined and directed by the values of "this world" It is a world in rebellion against God. It is a lifestyle that is purely "human" in its orientation.
 3. To "walk according to the Spirit," is to live under the control, and according to the values, of the "new age," created and dominated by God's Spirit as his eschatological gift.
- C. This walk therefore changes the way we think.
1. One mind leads to death - flesh.
 2. One mind leads to life - Spirit.
 3. Again we sin and death on one hand Spirit and life on the other.
 4. Therefore we must continue to let the Spirit change our lives.