

"For Those In-Christ Jesus"

Romans 8:1

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Welcome to what many Christians consider to be the GREATEST verse in all the Bible!

Qt: It is the unspeakable privilege and comfort of ALL those that are IN Christ Jesus... that there is therefore now no condemnation to them. (Note that) He does not say, "There is no accusation against them," for this there is; but the accusation is thrown out, and the indictment squashed. He does not say, "There is nothing in them that deserves condemnation," for this there is, and they see it, and own it, and mourn over it, and condemn themselves for it; but it shall not be their ruin. He does not say, "There is no cross, no affliction to them or no displeasure in the affliction," for this there may be; but no condemnation. They may be chastened of the Lord, but not condemned with the world. Now this arises from their being in Christ Jesus; by virtue of their union with him through faith, they are thus secured." -- Matthew Henry

"Therefore..."

What is the "therefore" there for? To summarize Romans 1:1 thru chapter 7...

Romans 1:1	blessed slaves
Romans 1:16-17	theme of the letter
Romans 1:18	the promised wrath of God
Romans 3:23	everyone deserves God's wrath
Romans 5:8	yet Christ died for undeserving sinners
Romans 6:23	eternal death awaits all who reject Jesus
Romans 7	God's Law serves us but it cannot save us

Romans 7 underscores the poignant & powerful truth:

***The power of sin is not done-away-with...
BUT... it has been defeated!*** - JDP

***** VIDEO *** (Spiritual Warfare/Full Armor of God)**

"...there is NOW..." (Note: The *Theology of "Change"*)

The million dollar and eternal questions are....**"When is now?" & "Why now?"**

"Now" denotes a change, a contrast... **"now" means after "before."**

If you don't accept your biblical "before," you cannot receive the Gift of the gospel "now."

Qt: "...on the one hand, there must be light in the understanding, as well as an affected heart. Where there is heat without light, there can be nothing divine or heavenly in that heart. On the other hand, where there is a kind of light without heat - a head stored with notions and speculations, with a cold and unaffected heart, there can be nothing divine in that light. That knowledge is no true spiritual knowledge of divine things. If the great things of religion are rightly understood, they will affect the heart." – **Jonathan Edwards 1703-58**

Christianity means CHANGE... Christianity is change!

Qt: "But the great test of the reality and worth of any... spiritual change... in the minds and hearts of men, **is the effect it produces on their conduct.** Tried by this test... the (true) Christian who (used to) delight in everything that resembled the savage nature of **the tiger... becomes as gentle and harmless as the lamb.**" -- **James Grant**

Christ-crucified is the authentic Christian's One and only Change-Agent!

***** VIDEO *** ("Change Me Lord")**

"...no..."

No means NO!

Quantitatively speaking... Nada, Nothing... Zero, ZILTCH!

Qualitatively speaking... "no" means "yes" to "New," "Clean," "Holy," "FREE!"

"...no condemnation..."

NOT Guilty! NO Punishment! Not "paroled" but FULLY PARDONED!

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." – **John 8:32**

"...and he who the Son sets free is free indeed." – **John 8:36**

"...for those"

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." – Charles Dickens

Qt: "**No condemnation**" — that is the first note of the chapter. In the last verse it is "**no separation.**" What glorious music there is here, — no condemnation to those who are in Christ, (and) no separation of them from Christ!

Happy are the people who have a share in this double blessing, and unhappy are the men and women who know nothing of it."

-- **Charles Spurgeon**

THIS CLAUSE CREATES EXCLUSION... those IN & OUT of God's WRATH!

How important is it to understand how God defines this phrase???

If you get this wrong, eternity will literally be hell.

This is no place to roll the dice or be politically correct!

Remember: things are often not as they appear...

Qt: *“Many centuries have now passed away since God sent forth a few Jews from a remote corner of the earth to do a work which according to man’s judgment, must have seemed impossible. He sent them out at a time when the whole world was full of superstition, cruelty, lust, and sin. He sent them out to proclaim that the established religions of the earth were false and useless, and must be forsaken. He sent them out to persuade men to give up old habits and customs, and to live different lives. He sent them out to do battle with the most perverted idolatry, with the vilest and most disgusting immorality, with a bigoted priesthood, with sneering philosophers, with an ignorant population, with bloody-minded emperors... Never was there an enterprise more unrealistic and less likely to succeed!*

And how did He arm them for this battle? He gave them no worldly weapons. He gave them no worldly power to compel agreement, and no worldly riches to bribe belief. He simply put the Holy Spirit into their hearts, and the Scriptures into their hands. He simply commanded them to expound and explain, to require compliance... (with) the doctrines of the Bible. The preacher of Christianity in the first century was... nothing more than one holy man with one holy book.” – J.C. Ryle

“...who are in”

Again... this clause DEFINES EXCLUSION as those **IN & OUT of God’s WRATH!**

Are you “in” our “out” of condemnation? How do you know? God Scripture?

If God asked you why He should let you into heaven... what would you say

Is your answer supported more by your lips... or your life?

“IN” does not mean “around.” By definition, you are either “in” or you are “out.”

Biblically speaking, many who look “in” are “out” and many who look “out” are “in”

Religious leaders....

Luke 24:20 (key = lovers vs leaders)

Good deed-doers....

Ephesians 2:8-10 (for vs by “works”)

Miraculous ministers....

Matthew 7:21-23 (know vs known by)

Qt: *“To be sure, if the church rather than Christ becomes the centre of our devotion, spiritual decay has begun. A doctrine of the church that does not centre on Christ is self-defeating and false... The courage to stand apart, to be unashamed of Christ’s claims, is in those who are baptized into his name. The church (must) proclaim the only Saviour of the world. Together we must make clear that it is to Christ and not to our (selfish desires) that we witness.” -- Edmund Clowney (1917-2005)*

The praying tax collector...	Luke 18:13 (holiness vs hypocrite)
The woman at the well...	John 4 (sanctified & satisfied)
The thief of the cross...	Luke 23:39-43 (faithful & forgiven)

Biblical distinctions between those who are IN vs OUT

"Knowing HOW... in no way guarantees you are amongst the **WHO.**" – JDP

Jer. 9:3-9 (Liars & Wolves that deceive on purpose... looking/sounding good)

"They make ready their tongue like a bow, to shoot lies; it is not by truth that they triumph in the land. They go from one sin to another; they do not acknowledge me," declares the LORD. 4 "Beware of your friends; do not trust your brothers. For every brother is a deceiver, and every friend a slanderer. 5 Friend deceives friend, and no one speaks the truth. They have taught their tongues to lie; they weary themselves with sinning. 6 You live in the midst of deception; in their deceit they refuse to acknowledge me," declares the LORD. 7 Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says... 8 Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks with deceit. With his mouth each speaks cordially to his neighbor, but in his heart he sets a trap for him. 9 Should I not punish them for this?" declares the LORD.

1 Cor. 5:6-12 (Don't tolerate even a tiny bit of hypocrisy!)

Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? 7 Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 8 Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. 9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. 12 What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? 13 God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you."

Note contrast between **Ephesians 4... vs Jeremiah 9 and 1 Corinthians 5:**

Ephesians 4:3-6: *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

Wolves vs Sheep

Qt: *"Effectual ministry is a difficult service in its own nature. Were the work of a preacher confined to the delivery of a moral discourse, this would not be an arduous task. But a Minister of the Gospel has much more to do. He will endeavour, under Divine Grace, to bring every individual in his congregation to live no longer to himself, but unto Him who died for us. But here the passions, prejudices, and the temporal interests of men combine to oppose his success. It is not easy to obtain any influence over the mind of another; but to obtain such an influence as to direct it contrary to the natural current of its desires and passions, is a work of the highest difficulty. Yet such is the work of a Minister. . .*

We have to convey unpleasant tidings; to persuade to what is disagreeable; to effect not only a reformation in the conduct (and passions) of men, but, what is of still higher difficulty, a change in their good opinion of themselves. Nay, further we have not merely to "wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Who is sufficient for these things?" For this office the Christian Minister may in himself "have no resources above those of any of his congregation," their weaknesses are his weaknesses, he must therefore undertake his work in weakness, fear and much trembling, but knowing that it may yet be effectual, for it is in weakness that Christ's strength is always made perfect." -- John Venn (1759-1813)

Weeds vs Wheat

Athanasius (c. 296 – 373), Bishop of Alexandria, was a resolute defender of the faith.

His epitaph... *Athanasius contra mundum*, = **"Athanasius against the world."**

Qt: *"We are proud that our own country has more than once stood against the world. Athanasius did the same. He stood for the Trinitarian doctrine, "whole and undefiled," when it looked as if all the civilized world was slipping back from Christianity into the religion of Arius—into one of those "sensible" synthetic religions which are so strongly recommended to-day and which, then as now, included among their devotees many highly cultivated clergymen. It is his glory that he did not move with the times; it is his reward that he now remains when those times, as all times do, have moved away." -- C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)*

1 Corinthians 11:32 = *"we are disciplined by the Lord, so that we may not be condemned with the world."*

Judas vs Peter

(phony but looked good) vs (looked bad but faithful)

"...in-Christ Jesus" (Note: not just any claiming christ/messia but Christ **JESUS!**)

Titus 2:13 = *"the great God & our Savior, Jesus Christ."*
Jesus as "I Am" = **John 4:26; 8:24,28,58; 13:19...**

1 Tim. 3:16 = God was manifest in the flesh (Jesus)

Read **John 15**... **"I am the Vine... you are the branches... abide in Me."**

Acts 4:12 And there is **salvation** in no **one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

Acts 26:18 = Jesus said: **you will be sanctified by faith IN ME!**

John 16:33 = Jesus said: **IN ME... you have PEACE**

To be "in-Christ Jesus" is to be "out" of condemnation... no matter what!

To be "out-of-Christ Jesus" is to be "in" condemnation... no matter what!

Question: Today, what's the difference between the rich ruler & Judas?

Answer: **NOTHING!**

Qt: "It is difficult to be indifferent to a wide-awake Christian, a real live son of God. It is even more difficult to be indifferent to a whole body of Christians. You can hate them, or you can love them, but one thing is certain—you can't ignore them. There's something about them that won't let you. It isn't so much what they say or what they do. The thing that seems to haunt you is what they are. You can't put them out of your mind any more than you can shake off your shadow. They confront you with an entirely different way of life, a new way of thinking, a changed set of values, and a higher standard of righteousness. In short, they face you with the kingdom of God on earth, and you have to accept it or reject it. There's no washing of hands. These people must be crowned or crucified, for they're either mighty right or mighty wrong." – **Clarence Jordan**

Look at the incredible parallel between Jude & Romans 8:1

"Therefore"

1a Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ...

"for those who are in Christ Jesus"

1b To those who are the called, loved by God the Father and **kept by Jesus Christ.**

2 May mercy, peace, and love (in contrast to condemnation) be multiplied to you.

3 Dear friends, although I was eager to write you about our common salvation, **I**

found it necessary to write and exhort you to contend for the faith that was delivered to the saints **once for all. 4 For certain men**, who were designated for judgment long ago, **have come in by stealth; they are ungodly, turning the grace of our God into promiscuity and denying our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.**

(Note: contrast is made here between the phonies & the truly faithful)
5 Now I want to remind you, though you know all these things: the Lord, having first of all saved a people out of Egypt, later destroyed those who did not believe;

12 They (the hypocritical, false teachers) are waterless clouds... trees in late autumn – **fruitless, twice dead, pulled out by the roots....** (they are) wandering stars... **for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever!**

17 But you, dear friends, remember the words foretold by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; **18** they told you, "In the end time there will be **scoffers walking according to their own ungodly desires.**" **19** These people create divisions and are merely natural, (LIVING IN THE FLESHLY OLD NATURE), **not having the Spirit.**

20 But you, dear friends, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, (**"there is NOW, NO CONDEMNATION..."**) **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, expecting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ for eternal life.

(Again)... (**"for those who are IN-Christ Jesus**)

24 Now to Him (Jesus) who is able to protect you from stumbling and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless and with great joy... (Again)...

(**"for those who are IN-Christ Jesus"**) **25** to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time, now, and forever. Amen.

"These are the best of times... these are the worst of times..."

***** VIDEO *** ("How He Loves Us")**

"These are the best of times... these are the worst of times..."

It ALL depends on whether or not you are "in Christ Jesus."

John 14:20 *In that day you will know that I am in My Father, & you in Me, & I in you.*

Amen... and AMEN!

Let's Pray... "It's ALL Good... because it's ALL God!"