



2017 Q4 The Book of Romans - Lesson 9

No Condemnation — by Dr. Wendell Moses

SABBATH

Memory Text: There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Romans 8:1

- There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (KJV)
- Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (NASB)
- So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. (NLT)
- There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. (GNT)

Premise #1: The Bible is about God, not us.

Read the entire passage for this week's lesson from Phillips translation or Today's English Translation.

- What is the theme of these passages?
- The word "spirit" is present 18 times in these 17 verses
- TEV: 18x, NLT: 15x, KJV: 16x, NASB: 17x
- The emphasis is our "life in the Spirit" not guilt

Lesson Theme: (What the lesson should really be about) God gave and is continuing to give of Himself in both Father, Son and Spirit that we may be like Him. That is the way He designed it in the beginning and that is still His ultimate goal.

Read the entire page: In the third paragraph:

- It was the only way "He could relate to us,"
- Why is that?
- Did God not know how we felt?
- Isn't the pathos of the Old Testament an indication that indeed God does know what it is to be human?
- He speaks in such human terms.
- He expresses emotion of father, mother, child
- He shows the heart of yearning after His children who are wandering away from Him.
- Christ did call himself "the human"
- (son of man) depiction
- That is for our benefit, not His.
- The deficits of understanding and relationship are human in origin, not God derived.



- God was not damaged when sin entered the universe and subsequently to this earth. His children were the ones who were damaged.
- God's interventions have been for our restoration and healing, not to correct any deficiency in God.

At the bottom of the paragraph: "Obedience to law had not been, nor ever can be, a means of salvation."

- Why?
- We are to be a "new creature"
- External versus internal sources of behavior
- When we are born again in Christ we become new creatures.
 - "Unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God"
 - You cannot perceive or understand it
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 & John 3:3
 - It is not a deficiency on God's part
 - It is our deficiencies that God came to repair
 - It wasn't God that was broken, it is me / us.

SUNDAY

In Jesus Christ

What is the emphasis of Romans 8:1

- What do you see?
- If your emphasis is on your record, you concentrate on "condemnation"
- If your emphasis is on your relationship, you concentrate on the contrast in how you walk (relationship with Christ)
- TEV "There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus."
- Verses 8:1 - 11 are all about our life in union with Christ and the contrast with our human nature.

Read the first paragraph. (As I noted in the margin - excellent)

The next two paragraphs paint a different picture.

- It is little to do with our union with Christ.
- Consumed with the images of fault, perfection of records, and condemnation.

Romans 8:2

- What is the law of the Spirit of life?
- Is this not the law of life?
- Is this not what righteousness truly means?
- This is not imposed, arbitrary rule, but God's eternal design from the foundation of the world.
- This is how life should be.



Read the quote from the “The Desire of Ages” at the bottom of the page?

The last sentence of the pink section says: “Are a slave, or are you free in Christ? How can you know for sure?”

- Is that not the purpose of the law?
- The Law of God is a diagnostic instrument to see where are treasure, emphasis and heart truly is. It will be the standard of our devotion.
- The moral law is descriptive, not proscriptive.

MONDAY

What the Law Could Not Do

Read the first paragraph... Why do we need Jesus/God?

- We need to return to our original design.
- Christ Jesus is not a patch.
- The Trinity is our center / our Core.

Read Romans 8:3,4

- “What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin. God did this so that the righteous demands of the Law might be fully satisfied in us who live according to the Spirit, and not according to human nature.”
- Read second paragraph and onward. (Especially the 2nd and 6th)

TUESDAY

The Flesh or the Spirit

Read the bold print at the top. Read the text and then the question. “Dwell on these texts.. .What do they say to you about the way in which you are living?”

Should you concentrate on deeds / behavior?

- On to what should you concentrate your life’s energies?
- Matthew 22:37 “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- Proverbs 23:7 (Thoughts are source of behavior)
- “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (Law of Love)
- “Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.”
- Matthew 5:22, 28 (Sermon on the Mount)
- “But now I tell you: if you are angry with your brother you will be brought to trial, if you call your brother ‘You good-for-nothing!’ you will be brought before the Council, and if you call



your brother a worthless fool you will be in danger of going to the fire of hell....But now I tell you: anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her is guilty of committing adultery with her in his heart.”

Read first paragraph

- This is the real meaning of this week’s lesson:
- The source of your inner being: is it God via His Spirit, or is it our broken humanity.
- This gives new meaning to what is natural
 - What currently is “natural” is actually a perversion of what life is suppose to be like.
 - How we were created to be in the beginning, before sin, is what is to be Natural.

Paul contrasts Life of Christ with Life apart from Christ.

- Paul’s purpose?
- Read first sentence of the 5th paragraph:
- “This was Paul’s answer . . .”
- It wasn’t “enough” for salvation before. Only by rebirth of the inner person that healing could occur.
- Psalms 51:10 (GNT) “Create a pure heart in me, O God, and put a new and loyal spirit in me.”

WEDNESDAY

Christ In You

Read the first paragraph “Paul continues his theme. . .”

- Life according to the Holy Spirit of God
- Life according to my sinful and carnal nature
- Romans 8:13 (GNT) “For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live.”
- One leads to eternal life, the other to eternal death.
- This is not an imposed punishment.
- This is how the universe is designed.

Read the central portion of the 3rd paragraph: “But as in baptism, there is not only a burial but also a resurrection. . .”

- Even after the old man of sin is destroyed, it still is possible to sin. God does not destroy our freedom.

The highlighted are at bottom of page: The power of God that was able to resurrect Jesus from death is able to recreate His character in us.

Colossians 1:27 “God's plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. And the secret is that Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God.”



THURSDAY

The Spirit of Adoption

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We can be God's restored children.

Read EGW comments in middle of page.

Middle of Page Question: "What give us the assurance that God has indeed accepted us as children?"

- Romans 8:16: "God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children."
- How do you know?
- Is this a mystical feeling?
- "I know that I know that I know that I know ..."
- Do you believe God's word even when it doesn't feel like it.
- What is a healthy conscience?
- How about the written law?
- It says volumes about who God is and what He is like!

FRIDAY

Any of the provided passages can be useful in our walk

Teacher's Comments: Read the bottom section of "The Lesson in Brief"

- Do: Build a friendship with God
- What are willing to do?
- What are some of the ways?
- What are the key moments?
- What has thinking about who Christ is accomplished in you personally?
 - 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT "So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image."

Hold to Affirmative Truth

"Often, as you seek to present the truth, opposition will be aroused; but if you seek to meet the opposition with argument, you will only multiply it, and that you cannot afford to do. Hold to the affirmative. Angels of God are watching you, and they understand how to impress those whose opposition you refuse to meet with argument. Dwell not on the negative points of questions that arise, but gather to your minds affirmative truths, and fasten them there by much earnest prayer and heart-consecration."—Testimonies for the Church 9:147, 148. ChS 126.2



“If the canvasser walks with God, if he prays for heavenly wisdom that he may do good and only good in his labor, he will be quick to discern the needs of those with whom he comes in contact. He will make the most of his opportunities to draw souls to Christ, not dwelling upon doctrinal subjects, but upon the love of God, upon His mercy and goodness in the plan of salvation. In the spirit of Christ he will be ready to speak a word in season to him that is weary. CM 102.2

The great need of the soul is to know God and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent. The Bible abounds in practical lessons, which the canvasser may safely present. If he can by this means impart a knowledge of practical religion, he will be feeding the people, who need just such precious food.” —Manual for Canvassers, 35, 36 (1902). CM 103.1

The religion of Christ is not to be placed in the background and its holy principles laid down to meet the approval of any class, however popular. If the standard of truth and holiness is lowered, the design of God will not then be carried out in this institution. CH 245.1

But our peculiar faith should not be discussed with patients. Their minds should not be unnecessarily excited upon subjects wherein we differ, unless they themselves desire it; and then great caution should be observed not to agitate the mind by urging upon them our peculiar faith. The Health Institute [The name of the battle creek sanitarium in its early days.] is not the place to be forward to enter into discussion upon points of our faith wherein we differ with the religious world generally. Prayer meetings are held at the Institute, in which all may take part if they choose; but there is an abundance to dwell upon in regard to Bible religion without touching objectionable points of difference. Silent influence will do more than open controversy. CH 245.2

In exhortation in the prayer meetings, some Sabbathkeepers have felt that they must bring in the Sabbath and the third angel's message, or they could not have freedom. This is characteristic of narrow minds. Patients not acquainted with our faith do not know what is meant by the third angel's message. The introduction of these terms without a clear explanation of them does only harm. We must meet the people where they are, and yet we need not sacrifice one principle of the truth. The prayer meeting will prove a blessing to patients, helpers, and physicians. Brief and interesting seasons of prayer and social worship will increase the confidence of patients in their physicians and helpers. The helpers should not be deprived of these meetings by work, unless it is positively necessary. They need them and should enjoy them. CH 245.3

The consciousness of rightdoing is the best medicine for diseased bodies and minds. The special blessing of God resting upon the receiver is health and strength. One whose mind is quiet and satisfied in God is on the highway to health. To have the consciousness that the eye of the Lord is upon us, and that His ear is open to our prayers, is a satisfaction indeed. To know that we have a never-failing Friend to whom we can confide all the secrets of the soul, is a happiness which words can never express. Those whose moral faculties are clouded by disease are not the ones to rightly represent the



Christian life or the beauties of holiness. They are too often in the fire of fanaticism or the water of cold indifference or stolid gloom. CH 628.2

Those who do not feel that it is a religious duty to discipline the mind to dwell upon cheerful subjects, will usually be found at one of two extremes: they will be elated by a continual round of exciting amusements, indulging in frivolous conversation, laughing and joking, or they will be depressed, having great trials and mental conflicts, which they think but few have ever experienced or can understand. These persons may profess Christianity, but they deceive their own souls.... CH 628.3

It is essential that all shall know what atmosphere surrounds their own souls, whether they are in co-partnership with the enemy of righteousness, and unconsciously doing his work, or whether they are yoked up with Christ, doing His work.... Mar 63.2

Satan would be pleased to have anyone and everyone become his allies in the work of weakening the confidence of brother in brother, and sowing discord among those who profess to believe the truth. Satan can accomplish his purpose most successfully through professed friends of Christ who are not walking and working in Christ's lines.... Mar 63.3

This is the day of the Lord's preparation. We have no time now to talk unbelief or ... to do the devil's work. Let everyone beware of unsettling the faith of others by sowing seeds of envy, jealousy, disunion; for God hears the words, and He judges, not by assertions which are yea and nay, but by the fruit of one's course of action.... Mar 63.4

As yet the four winds are held until the servants of God shall be sealed in their foreheads. Then the powers of earth will marshal their forces for the last great battle. How carefully we should improve the little remaining period of our probation! How earnestly we should examine ourselves! ... Mar 63.5

It is discipline of spirit, cleanness of heart and thought that is needed. This is of more value than brilliant talent, tact, or knowledge. An ordinary mind, trained to obey a "Thus saith the Lord," is better qualified for God's work than are those who have capabilities, but do not employ them rightly.... Men may take pride of their knowledge of worldly things; but if they have not a knowledge of the true God, of Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, they are deplorably ignorant, and their knowledge will perish with them. Secular knowledge is power; but the knowledge of the Word, which has a transforming influence upon the human mind, is imperishable. Mar 63.6

Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge. James 4:11. TMK 184.1

If Satan can employ professed believers to act as accusers of the brethren, he is greatly pleased, for those who do this are just as truly serving him as was Judas when he betrayed Christ, although they may be doing it ignorantly.... TMK 184.2



Floating rumors are frequently the destroyers of unity among brethren. There are some who watch with open mind and ears to catch flying scandal. They gather up little incidents which may be trifling in themselves, but which are repeated and exaggerated until a man is made an offender for a word. Their motto seems to be, "Report, and we will report it." TMK 184.3

These talebearers are doing the devil's work with surprising fidelity, little knowing how offensive their course is to God. If they would spend half the energy and zeal that is given to this unholy work in examining their own hearts, they would find so much to do to cleanse their souls from impurity that they would have no time or disposition to criticize their brethren, and they would not fall under the power of this temptation. TMK 184.4

The door of the mind should be closed against, "they say" or "I have heard." Why should we not, instead of allowing jealousy or evil surmising to come into our hearts, go to our brethren, and, after frankly but kindly setting before them the things we have heard detrimental to their character and influence, pray with and for them? ... TMK 184.5

Let us diligently cultivate the pure principles of the gospel of Christ, the religion, not of self-esteem, but of love, meekness, and lowliness of heart. Then we shall love our brethren and esteem them better than ourselves. Our minds will not dwell on the dark side of their character; we shall not feast on scandal and flying reports. But "whatsoever things are ...of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise," we shall "think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). The Review and Herald, June 3, 1884. TMK 184.6

We see one going astray. What are we going to do? Cut him off from us and leave him in the hands of Satan? Or are we going to bring him into the hands of Christ, where we can pray for him and lead and guide him? What are we going to do? Build up the barriers between God and the soul? No, that is the devil's work, and we don't want to do his work; we want to do Christ's work, the work of the Spirit.... 9MR 59.3

"Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish" (Matthew 18:14). I know something of what I am talking. The objectionable characters are the very ones who are sick. They need your help, and for these very ones you should put forth extra effort. Do not cut the knot of difficulty by sending them where the devil wants them, but bind them with the cords of love—just where Christ did. Christ said in regard to Zacchaeus, that He came to save that which was lost—that which was hopeless in the eyes of others. The Pharisees found fault with Him, because He was so tender and merciful toward others, but here Christ has shown what He would do. What we want is to melt our hard hearts in pieces before God. 9MR 59.4

All this harshness—because I am in position of a teacher, I must rule, and you must come right to my ideas and under my control—that is not the way at all. It is not the way to present [yourself] before them. The right way is to do as God exhorts parents—bring them [children] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. How is that? We sit down and read to them from the Bible—I don't want to



Speak to you my words, but let God speak to you. Let God speak to them out of His Word. Read to them with such tenderness that tears are in your voice. That is what you want to do. 9MR 60.1

TEV: There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death. What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin. God did this so that the righteous demands of the Law might be fully satisfied in us who live according to the Spirit, and not according to human nature. Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them to, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. To be controlled by human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by their human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it. Those who obey their human nature cannot please God.

But you do not live as your human nature tells you to; instead, you live as the Spirit tells you to—if, in fact, God's Spirit lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ lives in you, the Spirit is life for you because you have been put right with God, even though your bodies are going to die because of sin. If the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from death, lives in you, then he who raised Christ from death will also give life to your mortal bodies by the presence of his Spirit in you.

So then, my friends, we have an obligation, but it is not to live as our human nature wants us to. For if you live according to your human nature, you are going to die; but if by the Spirit you put to death your sinful actions, you will live. Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children. For the Spirit that God has given you does not make you slaves and cause you to be afraid; instead, the Spirit makes you God's children, and by the Spirit's power we cry out to God, "Father! my Father!" God's Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God's children. Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share his glory.

How many times the word Spirit is present in Romans 8:1 - 17

TEV: 18x
NLT: 15x
KJV: 16x
NASB: 17x

Romans 8:1 - 17 (Phillips) "No condemnation now hangs over the head of those who are "in" Jesus Christ. For the new spiritual principle of life "in" Christ lifts me out of the old vicious circle of sin and death.



The Law never succeeded in producing righteousness—the failure was always the weakness of human nature. But God has met this by sending his own Son Jesus Christ to live in that human nature which causes the trouble. And, while Christ was actually taking upon himself the sins of men, God condemned that sinful nature. So that we are able to meet the Law's requirements, so long as we are living no longer by the dictates of our sinful nature, but in obedience to the promptings of the Spirit.

The carnal attitude sees no further than natural things. But the spiritual attitude reaches out after the things of the spirit. The former attitude means, bluntly, death: the latter means life and inward peace. And this is only to be expected, for the carnal attitude is inevitably opposed to the purpose of God, and neither can nor will follow his laws for living. Men who hold this attitude cannot possibly please God.

But you are not carnal but spiritual if the Spirit of God finds a home within you. You cannot, indeed, be a Christian at all unless you have something of his Spirit in you. Now if Christ does live within you his presence means that your sinful nature is dead, but your spirit becomes alive because of the righteousness he brings with him. I said that our nature is "dead" in the presence of Christ, and so it is, because of its sin. Nevertheless once the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives within you he will, by that same Spirit, bring to your whole being new strength and vitality.

So then, my brothers, you can see that we have no particular reason to feel grateful to our sensual nature, or to live life on the level of the instincts. Indeed that way of living leads to certain spiritual death. But if on the other hand you cut the nerve of your instinctive actions by obeying the Spirit, you are on the way to real living.

All who follow the leading of God's Spirit are God's own sons. Nor are you meant to relapse into the old slavish attitude of fear—you have been adopted into the very family circle of God and you can say with a full heart, "Father, my Father". The Spirit himself endorses our inward conviction that we really are the children of God. Think what that means. If we are his children we share his treasures, and all that Christ claims as his will belong to all of us as well! Yes, if we share in his suffering we shall certainly share in his glory." Copyright© 1962 edition, published by HarperCollins.