

"TOTALLY SECURE"

Romans 8:1-4

Do you know for sure that you are totally and eternally secure in the Lord Jesus Christ? How can you know that for sure?

So many believers live defeated and dejected lives. It's like they are on a spiritual rollercoaster—up and down, down and up. As Dr. Don Wilton put it . . .

At times they feel saved, all is well, life is good. The preacher is on track, stocks are up, the kids are growing well, the sun is shining. How easy, in a sense, to feel saved when life is good!

Here's the problem. Life is not one continuous mountaintop experience. Few people genuinely stay happy all the time. Yet many believe that anything less than a happy smile all day is evidence of ingratitude towards God—perhaps even somewhat "unchristian" If simply feeling

good and smiling all day long was enough to guarantee my eternal security, I would be in serious trouble. It is well nigh impossible to feel good all the time, let alone to smile all the day long. (Totally Secure: Finding Peace and Protection in the Arms of God, pp. 27-28)

When we fail to live like we should, the enemy fires a barrage of spiritual arrows at our heart. His ultimate goal is to rip to shreds our security in Christ. Living with spiritual insecurity is devastating for a Christian. It produces really nasty stuff like . . .

- **Doubt**
- **Guilt**
- **Inadequacy**
- **Discouragement**
- **Fear**
- **Worry**

Here's the truth you must lock away in your heart today. . .

BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN CHRIST!

This total security in Christ is manifested in our lives when we hop off the emotional roller coaster and embrace 4 things He has made available to us:

1. A PERSUASIVE AFFIRMATION

Romans 8:1... Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore" indicates that Paul is summarizing the truths he presented in chapters 1-7. These great truths can be summed up with these succinct statements . . .

- **The whole human race is under the condemnation of God (1:1—3:21).**
- **God sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can be justified and receive our Lord's perfect righteousness (3:21—5:21).**

- **Our sins are pardoned and the power of sin over our lives is broken (6).**
- **Conflict is inevitable in the Christian life (7).**

"...Now no condemnation" – Condemnation is a judicial term that carries the idea of a guilty verdict. Look, there is a "no" in front of it. Then, there is the word, "now." It contrasts our life prior to receiving Christ as our Savior and Lord with our life since we put our faith in Christ alone. Every sin is forgiven. The fear of God's judgment is gone for good!

"...In Christ Jesus"—Don't miss these important words. Everybody in this room today is in one of two places spiritually. You either *in Christ* or you are *outside of Christ*. In relation to the Lord Jesus, where are you today?

When you sin as a true believer, the devil will seek to heap guilt on you. At this point you need to remind yourself of this persuasive affirmation. Hear me now. God will convict you, but He won't condemn you!

BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN CHRIST!

As a result of our total security in Christ, we receive a persuasive affirmation. Then, we receive . . .

2. A PERMANENT LIBERATION

Romans 8:2... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Paul introduces two contrasting laws in this verse.

The first is "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus." Here's an interesting fact. In chapters 1-7, the Holy Spirit is mentioned only two times (1:4; 5:5). However, in Romans 8 the Holy Spirit is mentioned 20 times! Two of the ministries of the Holy Spirit are liberation and life.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6... Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is

from God, **6** who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:17... Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.

So the Holy Spirit takes the "gospel" and makes it operational in the life of a believer so that he/she will experience liberty (freedom from sin's power) and the supernatural life of Christ!

The second law is the "law of sin and of death."

Being born into the human race means that by nature and by choice we are sinners who fall short of God's glory. As a result, we are subject to the wrath of our holy, Creator God. The best description of our unredeemed condition can be found in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:1–3... And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world,

according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

As a result of the "*the law of sin and death*" the life of an unbeliever is empty and pointless (Rom. 8:20) and his/her future is haunted by the specter of living for eternity in hell.

Now keep this in mind, for one law to be rendered inoperable another law must take its place. For example, the law of gravity keeps an airplane on the ground. But, when the law of aerodynamics is applied to the plane, it is free to fly! **(Ro. 5:20)**

The Spirit of God applies the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus to set us free from the law of sin and death. This is why there is *now no condemnation* for those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ.

BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN CHRIST!

As a result of our total security in Christ, we receive a persuasive affirmation and a permanent liberation. We also receive . . .

3. A PERFECT COMPENSATION

Romans 8:3... For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.

God made all of this possible by doing for us what we could never do ourselves. Self-righteousness and self-effort could never produce the consistent security we find in the Lord Jesus.

"For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh"— Powerless. That's how Paul describes the Jewish Law. God never intended for any person to depend upon his/her ability to keep

the Law in order to produce justification or sanctification!

Romans 3:19–20... Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; **20** because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.

God designed the Law to reveal to Jews and Gentiles that we are sinners in need of a Savior!

"God did"— God Himself set in motion a plan whereby the human race could be *justified through the Lord Jesus Christ* and *sanctified through the ministry of the Holy Spirit*. What did God do?

"Sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh"— What a tremendous price God the Father was willing to pay to redeem the human race. This statement underscores both the deity of our Lord

and His humanity. Jesus was tempted like we are, yet He never sinned—not even once.

“And as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh” --This refers to the sacrificial nature of our Lord’s death. He came to be the “perfect sin offering.”

1 Peter 2:24... and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

God the Father poured the full fury of His wrath on the Lord Jesus, who was dying on the cross as our substitute. He paid the penalty for your sins. That’s why when a person repents of their sin and places their faith in Him their sins are forgiven and they are justified before the Father. The true believer never has to fear the condemnation of God because of what Jesus has accomplished for them. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN CHRIST!

As a result of our total security in Christ, we receive a persuasive affirmation and a permanent liberation and a perfect compensation. Finally, we also receive . . .

4. A PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

Romans 8:4... so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

If Jesus had not lived a perfect life, He could not have been our Savior. Not only did God put our sin on Jesus who died on the cross for us. He also put Christ's righteousness into us.

2 Corinthians 5:21... He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Here is God's ultimate purpose. Our obedience is so important to God that He sent His Son to die for us and He sent His Spirit to change us so that we will please Him in all we say and do. Glory to God!

Here's the question you must answer today. Will you live in the Spirit's power?

CONCLUSION

BELIEVERS ARE SECURE IN CHRIST!

Our total security in Christ is manifested in our lives when we receive. . .

- 1. A persuasive affirmation**
- 2. A permanent liberation**
- 3. A perfect compensation**
- 4. A personal transformation**

Let me ask you today. Are you *in Christ*? Do you have this amazing security that is made available to those who believe in Jesus.

If you are a believer, you do not have to live in defeat and full of guilt. Know who you are in Christ Jesus. You have died with Christ, and you have been resurrected to walk in newness of life.

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CFBC... "Romans 8"

Live the victorious Christian life! Don't try to produce what He has freely given in the Son of God and the Spirit of God!