

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN JESUS THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION

3 March 2024

Romans 8:1-11

SECTION	DESCRIPTION
Intro:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am so excited about today's message! • A Lot of theologians believe that Romans is the central point of the Bible... by far the most important letter ever written. • And that chapter 8 is the highlight chapter in the book of Romans. • So hold on to your hats cause here we go...
Prayer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the miracle of your word, we hold it with gratitude and expectation. • Holy Spirit help us come under your word and stir it in our hearts. • Do here today what you have set out to do and let your word accomplish the purpose for which it was given to us. AMEN
Context:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now, this chapter opens with therefore and we know that whenever you see therefore you have to ask what it is there for. • So, we must look at the part before to understand why we can now conclude that there is NO MORE CONDEMNATION for those in Christ Jesus. • What are we standing on when we make that claim?
The word:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The word of God has a few main objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To tell us what God's purpose is for life. (<i>Adam & Eve in the garden</i>) 2. To tell us that there is the problem of SIN. (<i>my way over God's way... it is personal...Adam & Eve did not <u>trust</u> the intentions of God</i>) 3. Tel us that God has a plan to restore our broken relationship with him. 4. To show us how God is in the process of perfecting all things.
Trust:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I want to be absolutely clear about this... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is not about a list of things that God says you can or cannot do... as in orders that we are to follow...NO! ➤ LIFE is about TRUSTING GOD! ➤ Why do I say this? ➤ Because of PROVIDENCE = The protective care of God: ➤ Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God..." ➤ Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ➤ Providence means you can trust God with the stuff of your life because he is orchestrating it all in any way.

Why:

- Why is he trustworthy?
- Because God's PROVIDENCE IS SEEN THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE.
- Showing us that we can trust His heart because:
 - ❖ He is fully **PRESENT**,
 - ❖ fully **ENGAGED**, and
 - ❖ fully **INVESTED** in the details...
 - In **Genesis**, we see He is the **breath of life**
 - In **Exodus**, He shows up as the **Passover lamb**
 - In **Leviticus** He is our **High Priest**
 - In **Numbers**, he is the **fire** by night
 - In **Deuteronomy**, he's Israel's **guide**
 - In **Joshua**, he's **salvation's choice**
 - In **Judges**, he is Israel's **guard**
 - In **Ruth**, he is the **kinsman redeemer**
 - In 1st and 2nd **Samuel** he is our **trusted prophet**
 - In **Kings** and **Chronicles**, we see Him as **sovereign**
 - In **Ezra**, he is the **true and faithful scribe**
 - In **Nehemiah**, he is the one who **rebuilds** walls and lives
 - In **Esther**, he is our **courage**
 - In **Job**, he is the **timeless redeemer**
 - In **Psalms**, he is our **morning song**
 - In **Proverbs**, he is our **wisdom**
 - In **Ecclesiastics** he is **a time and a season**
 - In the **Song of Solomon**, he is the **lover's dream**
 - In **Isaiah**, he is the **prince of peace**
 - In **Jeremiah**, he is the **weeping prophet**
 - In **Lamentations**, he is the **cry for Israel**
 - In **Ezekiel**, he is the **call from sin**
 - In **Daniel**, he is the **stranger** that will show up **in your fire**
 - In **Hosea**, he is the **forever faithful**
 - In **Joel**, he is the **Spirit's power**
 - In **Amos**, he is the **strong arms** that carry
 - In **Obadiah**, he is the Lord our **Saviour**
 - In **Jonah**, he is the **great missionary**
 - In **Micah**, he is the **promise of peace**
 - In **Nahem** he is our **strength and shields**
 - In **Habakkuk** and **Zephaniah**, he is the one who brings **revival**
 - In **Haggai**, he **restores** anything that has been lost
 - In **Zachariah**, he is our **fountain** and
 - In **Malachi**, at the end of the Old Testament, we see him as the **Son of righteousness** rising with healing in His wings

AND THAT'S JUST WHO HE IS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

- In **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John** you find out he is not just God BUT your **Messiah**
- And in the spirit-filled book of **Acts**, he is the **reigning fire from heaven**
- In **Romans**, he is the **grace of God**
- In **Corinthians**, he is the **power of love**
- In **Galatians**, he is **freedom from the curse of sin**
- In **Ephesians**, he is our glorious **treasure**
- In **Philippians**, he is the **servant's heart**
- In **Colossians**, he is **God** and the **Trinity**
- In **Thessalonians**, he is our **calling King**
- In **Timothy, Titus, and Philemon** he is our **mediator** and our **faithful pastor**
- In **Hebrews**, he is the **everlasting courage**
- In **James**, he is the one who will **heal you** when you're sick
- **1st and 2nd Peter** he is our faithful **shepherd**
- In **John and Jude**, he is the **lover** coming for his bride
- In the **Revelation** in the very end, he was and is and will always be the first the last the beginning, and the end
- THE SCRIPTURES REMIND US THAT ALL THINGS ARE **FROM HIM**, ALL THINGS ARE **THROUGH HIM**, AND ALL THINGS ARE **TO HIM** (Romans 11:36)

SO IT MAKES SENSE TO TRUST HIM RIGHT?

- You see we are all on a **collision course with the God** who made us.
- And God is Holy and when Holiness meets sinfulness it is not pretty!
- But God had a **DIVINE EXCHANGE** in mind.
- He would give the innocent for the guilty so that the guilty could become innocent

***John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son*

- So here is where the **therefore** come into play...
- **Therefore**, because God has a purpose for your life even though you have a **problem called sin** he had a plan to reconcile you to himself and he has the power to ultimately perfect you through Christ **therefore** there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- Because through Christ Jesus **the law of the SPIRIT OF LIFE set me FREE from the law of sin and death**
- I am not going to hell AND I am **not under condemnation** anymore...

Point :

<p>Explain:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So if the enemy has been speaking to you and telling you that you are unfit for use or service... • God is saying to you today that is the voice of the Enemy and a lie NOT the voice of someone who exchanged his innocent son for you.
<p>For specific people:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the recent conference I was at one of the speakers said: “Salvation is free, but discipleship will cost you everything!” • The qualification is for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS. • You see you cannot base your whole eternity and your life on earth by saying: “I raise my hand at the end of the gathering, and I prayed along with the pastor...” • Do you understand the implications of that prayer? <p>ARE YOU NOW IN CHRIST?</p>
<p>The Gospel according to Tupperware:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual explanation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ The goal and work of faith are to get you into Christ. ➢ So, it's not just that we believed in Christ but when we put our faith in him, we were united with Christ in baptism unto death and we were raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4) ➢ and that all happened because we were United with Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ little holder (YOU) in the bigger one (CHRIST) ➢ When we were saved, we got a new position and a new identity ➢ By FAITH we are now IN CHRIST! ➢ This is awesome!! ➢ I am still me, but I'm in a new position now that is gonna last for a loooong time!! ➢ And no one can separate me from God because I am in Christ! (Romans 8: 37-39) ➢ I can't be condemned because I'm in Christ ➢ But there is more... ➢ In Colossians 1 it says that the mystery of the gospel is that it's Christ in you that is our hope of glory! ➢ so not only am I in Christ BUT Christ is in me!! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smaller box (CHRIST) in the medium box (YOU) <p>SO, I AM IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IS IN ME!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is sitting at the right hand of the father. • AND I AM WITH HIM!!! • I was UNITED with him in his death. • AND I have been RAISED with him into a brand-new life! • When he came out of his grave = I came out of my grave. • So, I'm still in this equation but I'm getting less and less predominant. • BUT THERE IS EVEN MORE!!!

- **Colossians 3** goes on to say that we are not to set our minds on things on Earth but on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

AND THAT WE ARE HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD!!!

- Now I know **the Trinity is complex** but let's just leave it at that for now because if we could analyse God then he really wouldn't be worth following.
- But with Christ we are hidden in the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.
- Talk about extra layers of security!
 - **Put all the boxes in the biggest box (GOD)**

IF GOD IS WITH US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

- Some of us have been convinced by the enemy even though Christ is in us, and we are in Christ and we're hidden with Christ in God. that **we can't!**
- God wants to ask you a question today:
 - **ARE YOU IN CHRIST?** (because if you're not in Christ forget all that)
 - **Take the YOU box out and put it to one side**
 - If you're not in Christ and Christ isn't in you then you're just a free agent
 - You're like YES that's what I want to be = I don't want anybody telling me what to do...
 - YOU ARE FREE TO CHOOSE THAT
 - You can be a FREE agent and 100% in charge of your life...
 - **BUT**
 - WHEN THE END COMES...and it's surely coming...
 - and a **Holy, righteous, just, and perfect God...**
 - OBLITERATES SIN in the world and everything connected to it...
 - **when that wave comes you have nothing to mediate...**
 - **IT'S JUST YOU...**
 - ❖ when the world caves in
 - ❖ when a crisis strikes
 - ❖ when a lying enemy comes
 - ❖ when anxiety comes
 - ❖ when the weight comes
 - ❖ when brokenness comes
 - ❖ when death comes
 - ❖ when the darkness comes
 - **IT'S JUST YOU...**

BUT THE GOSPEL IS THE STORY OF A GOD WHO LOVES YOU!

- God knows that **on your own you can't...**
- but if Christ is in you, you surely can!

God has a question:

- **Put CHRIST back into YOU**
- If you are in Christ and with Him hidden in God...
 - **Put YOU back in place**
- The enemy has no chance of convincing you that you can't!
- **And what is so amazing is that Colossians 3 says when he comes, we will appear with him in glory!**
- We are **SEATED WITH HIM** at the right hand of the Father [Eph 2:6]
- We are **CO-AIRS** with him [Romans 8:17]
- In Ephesians chapter 1 it says that **HE CHOSE US**
- **GOD chose YOU before the foundation of the world!**
- **ARE YOU GETTING THIS?**
- Whatever you are **worrying** about or is **depressing** you or making you **anxious** comes FROM THE ROOT OF **FEAR**.
- **The antidote to FEAR isn't courage it is FAITH!**
- I am not going to be afraid because my 'DAD' is bigger than that!
- He will provide and bring me through it.
- **I'm in Christ...**
 - I know **WHO** I am
 - I know **WHERE** I am
 - I have a brand-new **POSITION**
 - I have a brand-new **IDENTITY**
- So, don't try to tell me I can't because *I can do all things... through Christ who gives me strength* [Philippians 4:13]

THIS IS NOT ALL = LET US SHIFT THE FOCUS TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD ...

- Because I am **IN CHRIST** I am also now connected to the **SPIRIT OF GOD** look at verse 11
- *if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of^[e] his Spirit who lives in you.*
- So.... I'm in Christ and I know I have the potential to live **FREE FROM THE FLESH** and to **FOLLOW THE SPIRIT** of God
- I have the potential to live free in the Spirit, because *where the Spirit of God is there is freedom.* [2 Corinthians 3:17]
- In verse 5 he says: *Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires*
- The MIND governed by the **flesh is death**, but the MIND governed by the **Spirit is life and peace**.
- **How do we do this?**
- How do we let our minds be governed by the Spirit?!

Paul tells us:

- What he's saying is that **the potential is there** because you're **IN CHRIST** but **the way that you make that potential a reality that has everything to do with your MIND SET.**
- The mindset on THE FLESH = DEATH
- The mindset on THE SPIRIT = LIFE
- I'm not talking about the power of positive thinking except that I am talking about the power of thinking positively
- Because he is saying where is your mind set?
- Is your mind set on the flesh or is your mind set on the **SPIRITUAL WORLD:**
 - who you are
 - who Christ is
 - who God is
 - where you are
 - what he is doing in you
 - what he is made available to you
 - who you are because of him
- OR
- Are you stuck in this **fleshly Zone** over here with your mind set on the Flesh (Me, myself, and I)
- That is the difference between whether or not you experience this **VICTORY** and **FREEDOM** that is possible in your life.
- So living according to the flesh and living according to the spirit doesn't start with something you **DO** it starts with something that you **THINK!**
- **God is giving you the power through Christ to take control of your thinking.**
- Because the battle for your life of whether you're going to live according to the flesh or according to the spirit does not depend on how strong you are but on how good your thinking is.
- 2 Corinthians 10:5 *take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,*
- **We cannot let anything live rent-free in our heads!**
- We **cannot harbour a lie in our minds** and dwell on it and expect to live out the POWER and the FREEDOM and the POSSIBILITY that is ours **IN CHRIST**
- **We have to change the way we think.**
- We're transformed by the renewing of our minds.
- That's how we don't conform to the pattern of this world I.E live like the flesh wants us to.

Illustration:

- It is a little like these home renovation programs (e.g. Grand Design)
- So, most of the time they want to create an open floorplan.

- The designer with his device comes in and **creates a virtual design** of what the space will look like when all the work is done.
 - The first thing that must happen is we got to take down that wall but to take down that wall we got to figure out if it's load bearing or not - if it is load bearing, we got to get one of those gigantic beams in here.
 - So the wall disappears and you can see right into the dining room....
 - And we are bringing these cabinets over here: cabinet show up
 - And moving the refrigerator over here
 - And there will be a pantry.
 - So we are losing this window...Windows gone
 - This little door down here is going to turn into a sliding door that goes all the way down to the corner of the room.
 - When you turn the corner, we're getting rid of the little fireplace = fireplace gone and a new fireplace will go here...
 - And so on...
- And you are like WOW AMAZING!
- But then they flashback to real life, and you are still standing in your real Kitchen that doesn't have an island with the three pendant lights and the cascading countertop!
- They are standing in the old kitchen, but the schematic shows a whole transformation.
- And that's where we're stuck right now some of you are **IN CHRIST** because you put your **faith in Jesus** and **he has invaded your life** you were **born again**, and you realize **you were chosen** before the foundation of the world...
- **But it's the schematic right now...** (Show Bible)
- New cabinets, new wall, window gone, sliding doors, open floor plan... It's amazing... anybody would want to live here!
- But it's the schematic right now and you're in the old kitchen.
- And just like every one of these shows the next thing that is going to happen after the picture is drawn is that they hand one of these personalities a **sledgehammer** and the way it works on most of the ones I watch they're going to poke four holes in the wall then we're going to commercial, and the real people come in and take down the wall...

Conclusion:

- **That is what God wants us to see = this process.**
- Do not be conformed to the old.
- Just because your flesh has still got the EFFECTS OF FALLEN MAN in it **don't get into this mindset** that this is me and that is just the way it is.
- I cannot change it, I have tried and tried everything, but I can't control it

- Jesus is saying **NO** do not be conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed!
- In other words, there's going to be some people swinging some sledgehammers.
- But not just randomly...
- It will all be done according to the schematic.
- And yes, things will change but it will change according to what God says he has done.
- And just like there is a transformation going to happen in that kitchen there is a transformation going to happen in my life.
- And I am getting new fixtures because I have them **IN CHRIST!**
- **And these things are going to happen through the renovation of my thinking.**
- It is not going to start with something that I do.
- The **sledgehammers are the good thoughts** of the word of God.
- This renovation will be done through the truth and the right thinking of the word of God.
- By renewing my mind and thinking according to Philippians 4:8-9 on the things that are TRUE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, and PRAISEWORTHY.
- I'm going to **set my mind** on these things.
- The discounted things in our culture!!
- I'm going to COUNT THEM AS THE MOST PRECIOUS things.
- I'm going to set my mind on them.
- I am going to **align my thoughts with God's thoughts!**
- If God doesn't think it about me I'm not going to think it about me.
- I'm going to **align my actions with God's thoughts!**
- I am going to renovate my mind!
- Dr Caroline Leaf says **66 days** you can create a new habit.
- What you do is you're consistently thinking the same thought, a positive thought, a true thought, a right thought about you or a situation or about somebody and you consistently think that thought for 66 days she said you actually **build a new neural pathway in your brain.**
- **NO STINKING THINKING!!**
- It takes time...
- But even after a few days in a field you can see where your feet went through the grass and after a few weeks in that same direction you can see the grass giving way to the ground and after time you have a little dirt path. And you might one day have a little extra cash and go you know what we're going to pave that...
- **And that's what God is giving you the power to do.**
- **In your mind**
- So yes, you're an heir but what difference is it going to make if you don't know who you are in Christ and your thinking is not right?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are going to live like a pauper on Earth and you're going to miss out on storing up treasure in heaven. • IN CRIST we are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sanctified (<u>Ephesians 2:19</u>) ➤ Blessed (<u>2 Corinthians 9:8</u>) ➤ Appreciated (<u>1 John 3:1</u>) ➤ Loved (<u>Zephaniah 3:17</u>) ➤ Saved (<u>John 5:24</u>) ➤ Reconciled (<u>Ephesians 4:32</u>) ➤ Heard (<u>1 Peter 3:12</u>) ➤ Gifted (<u>1 Peter 4:10-11</u>) ➤ Adopted (<u>Galatians 3:26-29</u>) ➤ Loved (<u>Romans 8:37-39</u>) ➤ Victorious (<u>1 Corinthians 15:55-57</u>) ➤ NEW (<u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u> "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!") • Is that not more than enough reason to celebrate!!! • If you feel today that you need to renovate your thinking...
Moment of quiet reflection:	
Prayer	