

EPISODE NO. 325

Rom. 8:1-8,12-28,31-35,37-39

No Condemnation Now

Paul wrote these words: 1 So, there is NO condemnation now for those people who are in Christ Jesus! 2 The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 The law was weak through human nature. God did what the law couldn't do: He sent His own Son as an offering for sin. He came with a nature like man's sinful human nature. And, concerning sin, this is how God used human nature to condemn sin. 4 He wanted to completely satisfy in us what the law says is right. We are living by following the Spirit, not by following human nature.

5 People who follow human nature are thinking about the evil things which human nature wants. People who follow the Spirit are thinking about the things that the Spirit wants. 6 The way human nature thinks is death, but the way the Spirit thinks is life and peace. 7 So, the way human nature thinks is hatred for God. It does not want to put itself under the law of God. Why? Because it just can't! 8 People controlled by human nature CANNOT please God.

12 Therefore, brothers, we shouldn't live by following our human nature. 13 If you do, you are going to die. However, if you use the Spirit to kill the evil deeds of the body, then you will live. 14 All people who are being led by God's Spirit are sons of God. 15 God did not give you a spirit to make you slaves, to be afraid again. Instead, you received the Spirit who makes you sons. Through the Spirit, we cry out, "Father, dear Father!" 16 This same Spirit agrees with our spirits, that we are God's children. 17 Since we are children, we are also heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. If we suffer together with him, then we will share glory together.

Everything Works Together for Good

18 I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worth comparing with the future glory which will be revealed to us. 19 Creation waits eagerly for the time when the sons of God will be revealed. 20 Creation was tied to worthlessness. That was not what it wanted, but God wanted it that way. So, He bound it. However, there is hope! 21 Creation itself will be set free from the slavery of decay and be brought into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 We know, even now, that all creation is groaning with pain. It feels pain, like a woman who will soon give birth. 23 Not only

that, but WE ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan with inward pain also. We are eagerly waiting to become true sons — when our bodies will be set free!
24 We were saved with this hope. A hope which is seen is not hope. Who hopes for something he can see? Nobody. 25 But, since we are hoping for something we cannot see yet, we patiently wait for it.

26 We don't know how we should pray, but the Spirit helps our weakness. He personally talks to God for us with feelings which our language cannot express. 27 God searches the hearts of all people. He knows what the Spirit is thinking. The Spirit talks to God on behalf of holy people, using the manner which pleases God.

28 We know that all things work together for good for people who love God. They are called for God's purpose.

Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

31 What should we think about all these things? Since God is for us, who can be against us!? 32 God did not keep His own Son. Instead, God gave him up for all of us. Therefore, wouldn't God freely give us everything? Yes. 33 Who could accuse God's chosen people? God is the One who declares people to be righteous! 34 Who will condemn!? Christ Jesus is the one who died and was raised from death. And, he is at God's right side, talking to God for us. 35 Who can separate us from Christ's love!? Will trouble, anxiety, persecution, having no food or clothes, danger, or violence separate us? No!

37 In all these things, we are more than conquerors through the one who loved us. 38-39 I am sure that NOTHING will be able to separate us from God's love which is found in Christ Jesus, our Lord. None of these things — death, life, angels, demons, the present time, the future, powers, heights, depths, or anything else in the world.