

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**ROMANS 8****Romans 8**

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

Paul begins this chapter with an emphatic statement. The statement is related to everything he has shared up to this point about man's sin, its consequences, how it separates a man from God; and that God has given the gift of eternal life. This eternal life and salvation is because of the grace of God that allows us to receive and embrace this gift by trust/faith, not by works of righteousness that we have done. The statement begins with the Greek word *vūv*, **nun, (noon)**. This is an adverb of time: just now, even now; just at hand, immediately, and is there because of logical connection: now then. *Now*, as the *logical result* of what precedes, *now*, in *light of* what has gone before.

The Apostle says, ***"at this present time, there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus!*** **Κατάκριμα**, katakrima, Phonetic Spelling: (kat-ak'-ree-mah), punishment following condemnation, penal servitude, penalty. **katá**, "down, according to," intensifying **kríma**, "the results of judgment," properly, the exact *sentence* of condemnation handed *down* after due *process* (establishing guilt). I put these Greek technicalities here for the sake of those who understand a modicum of Greek to show you that this is an amazing statement.

At this present time, for those who have repented of their sin and placed their trust in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus, there is, right now, no condemnation. No Judgment! If you are a child of God, the penalty for your sin has been paid. If you die, are killed instantly, or

die through some long lingering illness, no matter how you leave this life, you will stand before God forgiven and your slate clean because the Lord Jesus paid the debt you owed. When the Lord died on the cross outside the city walls of Jerusalem 2000 years ago, He cried out before His death, "It is finished!" The word He used was a language from the commercial world of the Greco-Roman era. The Greek word "tetelestai" was often stamped in seals or written across documents where debt had been incurred. When the debt was paid in full, this word would be written. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price that you owed. He paid the debt you owed. He paid a debt He did not owe. He paid a debt that you could not pay in all eternity. It is a debt that would have separated you from God forever. Believers will never have the penalty of sin discussed or judged before the Judgment Bar of Almighty God! That has been taken care of forever! What we will stand before God and give an account for one day is what we have done since we have been saved and delivered from the penalty of sin. This is Judgment Seat is called the **"Bema."** This is when followers of Jesus will be held accountable for our Service/Works, not our eternal salvation. That eternal salvation is settled the moment you give your life to Jesus. Paul wants the Romans to know that even though they may struggle and groan in this flesh, that has nothing to do with where we will spend eternity. That issue is forever settled in the reckoning and accounting of the Father. We will stand before God, not as a judge we have offended, but as God's very own possession. We will stand before Him as His children, and He will look at us as a Father, not a judge with whom we have no relationship.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, thank You that I stand before You acquitted! Thank You that You have paid the sin debt that I owed when You died in my place. Please enable me by Your grace to live the rest of my life to say, "Thank You" and "I love You." Amen