

SIN CONDEMNED – RIGHTEOUSNESS FULFILLED

PART 2 ROMANS CHAPTER EIGHT

Romans 8:3-4

*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the [sinful] flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the [sinful] flesh, ⁴ that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us** who do not walk according to the [sinful] flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Last week we mentioned that **RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS IMPUTED TO US** which brought justification (an accounting term). This means, once you believed, God declared you righteous forever by royal decree. This doesn't necessarily mean you feel anything or there is any behavioural change. It's a legal decree which made peace with God. (Romans 5:1)

We also mentioned that in regeneration **RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS BEEN IMPARTED INTO US**. *We were born again of an incorruptible seed* (1 Peter 1:23). **We have received the gift of righteousness** and we have become the righteousness of God internally.

2 Corinthians 5:21

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God** in Him.*

1 Corinthians 1:30

***You are in Christ Jesus**, who became to us wisdom from God, **righteousness** and sanctification and redemption.*

- *We have had **righteousness imputed to us** at justification.*
- *We have had **righteousness imparted into us** in regeneration.*

But here we read another aspect of God's righteousness ... a further application

- *We read '**RIGHTEOUSNESS SHOULD BE FULFILLED IN US**'*

SLIDE ***Righteousness** has been imputed to us.*

***Righteousness** has been imparted into us.*

***Righteousness** is being fulfilled in us fully.*

THIS IS THE SANCTIFICATION OF OUR OUTWARD CHRISTIAN LIFE, BRINGING THE FLESH INTO COMPLIANCE WITH OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

Look how many times flesh is mentioned in these two verses. **4 TIMES!**

Romans 8:3-4 **SLIDE**

*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the [sinful] flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of **sinful flesh**, on account of sin: He condemned sin in*

the *[sinful] flesh*,⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the *[sinful] flesh* but according to the Spirit.

The issue here is not so much the justification or regeneration of our spirit but **THE SANCTIFICATION OF US WHILE WE REMAIN IN UNREDEEMED FLESH.**

BUT, AS A GRACE PERSON YOU SAY, 'I'M DEAD TO THE LAW ... It really doesn't matter how I live ... how I speak ... how I think and behave ... I'm not under law ... I'm under grace ... I'm dead to the law!'

SLIDE

- **WE ARE DEAD TO THE LAW'S DOMINION.** (Romans 6:14)
BUT NOT TO THE LAW'S IDEALS -

Romans 7:12 Christian Standard Bible

... The Law is holy and the commandment is holy and just and good.

- **WE ARE DEAD TO THE LAW'S DEMANDS.** (Romans 7:4)
BUT NOT THE LAW'S DESIRES -

The man in Romans 7 had the right desires ... he had 'born again' desires but he couldn't walk as he wished.

Romans 7:22

For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

Hebrews 1:9

You have loved (with the heart) righteousness and hated lawlessness ...

He had it on the inside, not on the outside. His flesh was weak and the law condemned him.

- **WE ARE DEAD TO THE LAWS CONDEMNATION.** (Romans 8:1)
BUT NOT ITS PURPOSE. (Romans 8:4)

WE ARE CALLED TO FULFILL THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW.

OUR SANCTIFICATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S DESIRE.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

... This is the will of God ... even Your sanctification ...

God always desired to have a people like Him INWARDLY AND OUTWARDLY. People who sincerely loved His standards of righteousness and that could walk in them.

Deuteronomy 26:18-19 **SLIDE**

Today the LORD has proclaimed you to be His special people, just as He promised you, that you should keep all His commandments,¹⁹ and that He will set you high above all

nations which He has made, in praise, in name, and in honour, and that you may be a holy [consecrated] people to the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 7:6) (Deuteronomy 14:2)

Titus 2:14 (Berean Literal)

[He] gave Himself for us, that He might (1) redeem us from all lawlessness and (2) might purify to Himself a people specially chosen, (3) zealous of good works.

1 Peter 2:24 **SLIDE**

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness ...

THIS IS NOT ONLY **HAVING** HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT **LIVING** HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WE HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

WE'VE NOT ONLY BEEN GIVEN THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

WE'VE BEEN CHOSEN TO START LIVING HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

But you say, 'HOW DO I DO THAT?'

Even though the law is good and we are told that **the righteous requirement of the law should be fulfilled in us, we cannot use the law to start living righteousness.**

WE READ that the law cannot get us to stop sinning and to live a righteous life.

Romans 8:3

*For what **the law could not do** in that it was weak through [our sinful] flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ...*

Here in Romans 8:3, we see that Paul has personified 'the law' into ... **AN ENTITY WITH DESIRE AND PURPOSE TO SEE US LIVING RIGHTEOUSLY.**

SO, LIKE GOD, THE LAW ALSO HAD A DESIRE TO FULFILL ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN US, TO SEE US LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE ... BUT IT COULD NOT DO IT.

We read that the law's desire is good. (Romans 7:10,12,16) (I Timothy 1:8)

Romans 8:3 CL PARAPHRASE **SLIDE**

The law could not do [what it desired to do which is to cause us to walk in righteousness] because it was weakened through the [human people it had to work with].

THE LAW NEEDED US to accomplish that thing that it was assigned by God to do which is ... **TO ESTABLISH ITS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN LIVING, BREATHING HUMAN BEINGS.**

The problem was, we human beings failed it because of the weakness of our fallen flesh.

Imagine God sending the law to earth to establish His standards in human lives. God says, 'You'll be working with these people I have chosen. They are called Israel.'

So, the law leaves God with great expectation and high standards and heads excitedly to the people God has assigned for the task.

They arrive at a place called Sinai. It's a misty mountain. God gives the law to these people, but within days ... they have broken it. Nevertheless, the law hangs on ...

*But after 4,000 years ... the law returns to God and says ... **SLIDE** these people you gave me are hopeless. **THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING I TELL THEM TO DO.***

SO GOD SAYS TO THE LAW. IT'S OK ... YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB. YOUR JOB WAS TO SHOW PEOPLE THEY NEEDED A SAVIOUR. SOMEONE WHO WOULD DO WHAT THEY COULD NOT DO. **You are a schoolmaster to point to the Messiah.**

HERE COMES THE SON!!!

Romans 8:3 **SLIDE**

*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the [sinful] flesh, **God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the [sinless] flesh.***

JESUS WAS THE ONLY PERSON TO FULFILL THE LAW

Matthew 5:17-18 **SLIDE**

*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but **to fulfil.**¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, **till all be fulfilled.***

ONLY ONE PERSON EVER BORN IN HUMAN FLESH WAS ABLE TO LIVE THE PERFECT LIFE.
Jesus Christ overcame every temptation ... every oppression ... every spiritual attack ... every accusation ... all spiritual abuse ... **AND EVERY REWARD WAS HIS AND THE HIGHEST HONOUR WAS GIVEN TO HIM. HE GAINED THE WEALTH AND GLORY OF HEAVEN ...**
AND HE TURNED AROUND AND GAVE IT ALL TO YOU!

UPON THE CROSS, CHRIST'S PERFECT LIFE WAS EXCHANGED FOR YOUR FAILED LIFE.

JESUS NOT ONLY TOOK YOUR SIN AND FAILURE ... HE GAVE YOU ALL HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

2 Corinthians 5:21 **SLIDE**

*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might **become the righteousness of God in Him.***

WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN ... CHRIST'S PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IMPARTED INTO US.

That life that fulfilled the law ... that lived all righteousness for 33 years without wavering once ... that life that pleased the Father ... that life that SIN HAD NO POWER OVER ... IS NOW IMPARTED TO YOU. And now you have that overcoming life within you.

THIS IS IMPARTED RIGHTEOUS LIFE WITHIN. IT IS THE POWER TO BEGIN TO LIVE A RIGHTEOUS LIFE WITHOUT.

IN FACT, IT'S ONLY THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITHIN US THAT CAN LIVE THIS RIGHTEOUS LIFE.

Colossians 1:27-28 NIV SLIDE

*God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory. ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present **everyone fully mature in Christ**.*

You have not only been declared righteous ... legally which is 'Imputed Righteousness', You have also received righteousness ... spiritually which is 'Imparted Righteousness', And now have **internally** what you need to live **externally and fulfil the righteousness of the law**.

**SO HOW DO I WALK IN THIS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH I NOW HAVE WITHIN? HOW DO I GET WHAT I HAVE WITHIN ... WITHOUT?
HOW DO I FULFILL THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW IN MY LIFE?**

REMEMBER THAT WAS THE QUESTION THE UNKNOWN MAN OF CHAPTER 7 ASKED -

Romans 7:18 KJV

... How (do I) perform that which is good ...???

This man had internal righteousness which he loved but he couldn't get it on the outside.

This man tried to live the righteousness of the law **with his mind. (Romans 7:25)**

OUT TEXT HAS THE ANSWER ...

Romans 8:3-4 SLIDE

*For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the [sinful] flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the [sinless] flesh, ⁴ **that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the [weak] flesh but according to the Spirit.***

How do I do that? How do I overcome and walk right?

- 1. I DON'T WALK ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.**

(NB: This reference to 'the flesh' is not a reference to gross sin. It is a reference to **moral weakness – an inability to achieve **outwardly** that which we have **inwardly**.)**

As we saw in Romans 7, External Righteousness cannot be achieved by natural thinking or natural strength.

THIS IS THE SUBTLE NUANCE

Even though **I LOVE THE LAW** AND THE DESIRE TO LIVE RIGHT IS INSCRIBED UPON MY HEART, **SLIDE I MUST RESIST THE URGE** AND GUILT MOTIVATION TO TRY TO WALK **ACCORDING TO THE LAW**. I must stop trying to make the flesh walk right or in righteousness.

That's going back under the law and dead works. That would be according to the flesh.

The law demanded we live right to achieve righteousness.

Grace imparts righteousness into us so we can now live right.

How do I overcome and walk right?

2. **I REST BEFORE I WALK.**

Stop before you start and know you are already righteous.

BEGIN TO LIVE IN AND **ENJOY THIS PLACE** OF ALREADY BEING RIGHTEOUS.

When I finally grasp this and believe it **I REST IN THE SPIRIT** AND ENJOY IT.

HERE I CAN HEAR HIM ... FEEL HIM ... I start to walk according to the Spirit who is in me.

I wait like the eagle waits for the wind to carry him ...

How do I overcome and walk right?

3. **I WALK ACCORDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ME.**

Our text: '... Who do not walk according to the [weak] flesh but according to the Spirit.

This doesn't just mean 'His instruction'.

(I used to believe that's what it meant, eg He told me where to go or what to do.)

But this means far more. It's not just 'according to' His instruction but **His ability and power.**

PARABLE: THE CONTEST

At a great circus there was a particular side-show that attracted many hopeful people.

It was a contest which had a prize of a million dollars.

All a person had to do was to imitate the 10 moves of a young girl who was silhouetted behind a screen. Many tried, but all failed. **They got a few right** - when she jumped up and down they could jump up and down ... when she twirled around they could twirl around ... but then she would rise into the air and twirl ... she would hover and then lie suspended in a horizontal position. Try as they might, nobody could do that. Everyone failed and could not do the 10 moves. **SLIDE**

Then one day a little boy came in and just watched. At the same time **the master** of the sideshow came out from behind the screen and said to the boy, 'Would you like to see how this young girl makes all these moves with such ease?'

'Yes please sir' said the little boy.

So the man took the boy behind the screen and there he saw this happy little girl floating in the air; however, he also noticed that underneath this girl and on either side of her were huge fans blowing air. **SLIDE** Suddenly he understood how this little girl could do these impossible moves with such ease. It was the air that effortlessly lifted her upward and enabled her to do moves otherwise impossible. It enabled her to twirl in the air and lie horizontal – moves that were impossible to do without the wind.

INTERPRETATION

THE FRONT OF THE SCREEN IS THE LAW SHOWING ONLY A SHADOW OF RIGHT MOVES.

THE PEOPLE TRYING TO WIN THE PRIZE ARE THOSE TRYING TO IMITATE THE LAW.

THE MASTER IS THE FATHER GOD.

THE WIND IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE YOUNG BOY IS THE BORN AGAIN BELIEVER.

THE MORAL IS: The way to keep the law is to not imitate **its shadow** but to discover **its substance** ... to allow the wind of the Spirit to carry you in **effortless ease**.

You will find, those moves you could never do before when you were trying to do them in your own strength ... you will be doing with ease.

SUPPLIMENTAL

LIVING BY FAITH

The justified ones will live out of faith ... From faith to faith (Romans 1:17)

By faith means I live from the inside out now ... NOT with the mind as the man in Romans 7 said, but with the heart by faith or out of faith.

Paul said it like this:

Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

The life I now live ... *I live (in) faith (of) the Son of God.* (Interlinear)

Faith is not a mental energy to try and get something to change or happen.

Faith is a state of heart that we have already been given in the New Creation man.

We don't try and conjure up faith ... we already have it ... find it within ... dwelling in peace and in the righteousness of Christ.

I no longer have to pray for God to rescue me in temptation and in the struggles I might be having.

I have the Holy Spirit within – I am born again of the Spirit and He's never left.

He doesn't leave me when I fail.