



**DECLARATION OF FREEDOM**

**ROMANS 8:1-4**

## Declaration of Independence

- By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the 13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking independence.

# Declaration of Independence

- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
  - It defined basic core truths that all laws were subject to going forward
  - It is to define what it means to be American

# Declaration of Independence

- There are two ways for one to legally fall under the authority of this document and be accepted by this declaration
  - Born into it or Adopted into
  - If one is here illegally then there is no real guaranteed freedom or peace

# Declaration of Independence

- Romans 8 is really the Christian's Declaration of Freedom
  - Not independence from the work of Jesus
  - Not free to do or live however we want
  - Freedom to be what God created us to be

# Declaration of Independence

- Freedom through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross
  - Freedom from the power of sin
  - Freedom before a just and righteous God for our sinfulness of the past, present and future
  - Freedom from death, hell and the grave

## Paul has spent the first 7 chapters of Romans telling us why we need a Savior

- **Romans 3:10-12 NIV** 10 “There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”
- **Romans 3:23 NIV** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

## Paul has spent the first 7 chapters of Romans telling us why we need a Savior

- **Romans 6:23 NIV** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **Romans 5:8 NIV** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- **Romans 4:25 NIV** He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.



## Paul has spent the first 7 chapters of Romans telling us why we need a Savior

- **Romans 10:13 NIV** for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
  - Forgiven, adopted, declared righteous before God
  - Set free from all that had enslaved you
- Romans 8 is Paul’s Declaration of Freedom for all those in Christ Jesus

- **Romans 8:1-4 NIV** 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

- **Romans 8:1-4 NIV** 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## **There is a difference between possession and enjoyment**

- This difference between possession and enjoyment is well illustrated in the story of Louis Delcourt. He was a young French soldier during the First World War who overstayed his leave and, fearing disgrace, he decided to desert. He persuaded his mother to lock him up in the attic of their home and there she hid him and fed him for twenty-one years.

## **There is a difference between possession and enjoyment**

- But in August 1937 his mother died. There was no chance now of his retaining his incognito and remaining in hiding. So, pale and haggard, he staggered along to the nearest police officer, where he gave himself up. The police officer looked at him in utter incredulity and asked him, “where have you been that you have not heard?” “Haven’t heard what?” asked Louis. “That a law of amnesty for all deserters was passed years ago.”

## **There is a difference between possession and enjoyment**

- Louis Delcourt had freedom but did not enjoy it because he did not know that he had it.
- It is the same with many Christian people today. They have been set free by Jesus Christ. But they are not living and enjoying their freedom because they do not know that they have it.
- What is Paul declaring in our scriptures this morning?

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- **Romans 8:1 NIV** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- Some translation will have the phrase, “who do not live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit”
- This phrase is not in the earliest and best fragments

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- There is nothing to be added to this statement
  - No, If I can be good enough
  - No, If I can ask for forgiveness before I take my last breath



**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- “There is now” – Greek indicates something that has happened that carries forward indefinitely
  - So, what is carried forward?

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  - So, what is carried forward?
- **No Condemnation or not being condemned**

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- No Condemnation or not being condemned
  - - to express an unfavorable or adverse judgment on; indicate strong disapproval of; censure. ... to give grounds or reason for convicting or censuring:

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden as a result of their sin and God place a “cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- Paul is saying to you Christian – right now and going forward you have been accepted back into the presence of God

**Those who are in Christ Jesus will never stand before a holy, righteous and just God and be eternally condemned**

- Not just forgiven but accepted, loved and adopted into His family
- A place at His table, an inheritance with Jesus Christ
- How can this possibly be true?

## **Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God**

- Because we have been placed in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, “for those who are in Christ Jesus”
- Or have been wrapped in the work of salvation provided by Jesus on the cross

## Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God

- There is a new authority in our lives
- **Vs. 2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.



## Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God

- **Genesis 2:15-17 NIV** 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

## Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God

- This was made clearer by the Law of Moses
- **Romans 3:20 NLT** 20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.
- **Romans 8:3 NIV** For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh

## **Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God**

- What does this Law of Sin and Death look like in Paul's life?

## Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God

- **Romans 7:18-20 NIV** 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

## Paul give us the reason why or what the requirements are to receive “no condemnation” from God

- So, what is the answer?
- **Romans 7:24-25 NIV** 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- A new authority, governor, overseer is now over us and directing us called the “Law of the Spirit” who gives life

## How do I know it can be trusted, true?

- You have seen illustrations of the “Bait and Switch” scam
  - The action (generally illegal) of advertising goods which are an apparent bargain, with the intention of substituting inferior or more expensive goods.
- Stephen Todd, “While I was in Bible College, I had a friend who took a Job at the Horseshoe Motel. It used to stand on Wellington street in London right where you come off the highway 401.

## How do I know it can be trusted, true?

- It had a big neon sign out front that said, "rooms starting at \$29.99." After just a week working there my friend had to quit. You see when someone came in off the street looking for the \$30 room, they were always told that those rooms were already taken, even if there was no one in the entire hotel. Instead the only rooms available were considerably more than \$30."
- Some spouses think marriage is a "bait and switch" but that is for another time

## How do I know it can be trusted, true?

- **Vs. 3b-4 NIV** 3b (but) God did (this) by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.
  - And so, he condemned sin in the flesh
  - **Vs 4** in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us.
- God condemned sin in the body of Jesus on the cross so He would not have to condemn sin in us



## How do I know it can be trusted, true?

- So He would be justified to look upon us as meeting the righteous requirement of the law
- God has chosen to wrap us in the work of Jesus on the cross and when he looks at us, He looks at us through Jesus' finished work and declares – accepted, righteous, pure and holy
- Not that we do not sin anymore, but we are kept by God Almighty

## How do I know it can be trusted, true?

- Omnipotent God is the authority behind this new Law of Life
- **John 10:27-30 NLT** 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, 29 for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one."

## This is what Jesus was trying to get a very religious man named Nicodemus to understand

- **John 3:1-3 NIV** 1 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

## This is what Jesus was trying to get a very religious man named Nicodemus to understand

- **John 3:1-3 NIV** 3 Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again (from above).”
- **Romans 10:9 NLT** If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

## This is what Jesus was trying to get a very religious man named Nicodemus to understand

- **Romans 10:13 NIV** for, “Everyone who calls (believing in faith) on the name of the Lord will be saved (born again).”
- **John 8:36 NIV** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
  - **MSG** So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through.



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