

THEREFORE,



THERE IS NOW NO  
CONDEMNATION FOR  
THOSE WHO ARE IN  
CHRIST JESUS.

## A LOOK AT OBJECTIONS TO HOLINESS

*Scripture Texts: Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 4:5; Romans 7:18-25; Romans 8:1-2; 1 John 1:6-10*

This is a ruined world. It is no friend to the Christian. There is much to oppose and dishearten a saint. The Christian life is called a fight of faith. How? The unbelief of those around us today goes far deeper than to disbelieve the possibility that man can live holy before God. A large percentage of the religious world fails to believe that Jesus Himself was holy. They do not recognize Him as the Son of God, born of a virgin.

It is impossible for one to be made holy by his own efforts. Only through faith in the power of the shed blood of Christ can man live clean from sin every day. Jesus Christ has done all things to make possible man's holiness. He gives the saint an inner fountain, fed by God. Jesus Christ sets men free from sin in this life to live after the Spirit.

In this lesson we look at some of the Scriptures used by those who oppose holiness.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.—Romans 8:1*

### Grace Through Redemption

**Ecclesiastes 7:20** There is not a just man upon earth, that ... sinneth not. This statement is true of man in his natural condition. No one can say he has no sin and so, no need of a Savior. Read **Romans 3:9-12**. Man of himself has no righteousness. In agreement is **Romans 3:23-24**. Here we see that the unjust is made just by Jesus Christ.

**Romans 4:5** To him that worketh not – does not strive to make himself righteous by his own power and deeds. It cannot be done that way ... but believeth on him – Jesus – that justifieth the ungodly – puts active faith in Him, his faith is counted for righteousness. When God has done this, the sinner is made righteous, the unjust has become just. We know there will be no sin in Heaven (**Revelation 21:27**), so when will people be made holy and clean for Heaven? (**Revelation 22:11**). One must have this experience here, in this life, on this side of eternity, because as we are when death comes upon us, so will we be in eternity (**Ecclesiastes 11:3**). There will be no time or place for a change in our spiritual condition after death. We will have made our final choice.

### Spirit Must Rule the Flesh

**Romans 7:18-23** Paul draws a dark picture here of one helpless under sins dominion. Multitudes have taken a partial look and, coming to the conclusion that there is no hope of freedom, have remained enslaved and taught others to do so. A full look reveals the bright light of hope. It was **in my flesh** that Paul met this inability. This is confined to one kind of life – sinful, fleshly living. **They that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you (Romans 8:8-9)**. Paul gave emphasis to his portrayal of the flesh by using present tense and first person. He did not mean he was enslaved. He had ceased living in the flesh and entered the life of the Spirit that day in Damascus (**Acts 9:17**). Listen to his shout of victory next.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

## LESSON 11

**Romans 7:24-25** Who shall deliver me ...? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus delivers from bondage to sin. So then with the mind – or spirit – **I myself serve the law of God.** This was Paul's position at that time. But if he should live in **the flesh**, he would serve **the law of sin.**

**Romans 8:1-2** (There should have been no chapter break here. The same thought carries forward.) **There is therefore** – because of Christ's deliverance – **no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus ...** Where there is no condemnation from God, there is no sin or guilt.

There are two realms of life – **in the flesh** and **in the Spirit.** Every person lives in one or the other, never in both at once. We all begin **in the flesh**, and many stay there. That is the realm of sin. When one repents and puts faith in Christ, he is transferred into the realm of the Spirit. **The law of the Spirit** frees one from **the law of sin.** As long as one continues to walk **after the Spirit** – to live in Him, to obey Him – he is kept free. We find that **1 John 2:1** does not give one excuse to sin. But it holds out hope to those who do sin of a way back into the good favor of God. **1 John 1:8-10** teaches that one must acknowledge the fact that he is a sinner before he can be forgiven and cleansed from his sins.

### Proof of Holiness

**1 John 1:6-7** Parts of this section are often used as proof that no one can live without sinning. Let us see what it *does* prove. **Verse 6** says that we cannot **have fellowship** with God and at the same time **walk in darkness** – or sin. **Verse 7** says one who walks **in the light** does have **fellowship** with Him. Also, **the blood of Jesus ...** cleanses such ones **from all sin.** This means that one walking in the light (obedient to God's Word) and in fellowship with Him has no sin, for it is cleansed away.

**1 John 1:8-10** This first statement is among those most often used in opposition to teaching of holiness and in arguing the impossibility of living without sin. It teaches that to say **we have no sin** is to lie. These three verses give two ways of meeting the question of sin. (1) We may claim to **have no sin** to be forgiven of. We have lived a good life, **have not sinned** – are self-righteous. Thus we lie and remain in our sins, unforgiven. (2) The other way is to **confess our sins**, own to being a sinner, lay bare our sins before God. Then God will **forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** A cleansed one is clean. He is saved from his sins. In doing this, God **is faithful** to His promise voiced over and over, for instance, **Isaiah 1:18.**

In **John 8:11** Jesus said to the woman, **go, and sin no more.** Did the Savior ask her to do the impossible? No, indeed not! With the command, He also furnished the power to do it.

### JUST A THOUGHT

**Life with Christ is an endless hope;  
without Him is a hopeless end.**

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