

Grace Community Church, San Antonio, TX 78205 | 210-222-2030  
www.gccsatx.com | www.sermonaudio.com/gcc

## **He Condemned Sin in Our Flesh: That We Might Fulfill the Law**

Romans 8:3-4

by Tim Conway

Old Martin Luther wasn't just dreaming this thing up about the devil and demonic powers because you know what the word of God says, on the authority of God's word, there are demons here today like birds that are going to seek to pluck these words up. God's word tells us that's the case. But we also know this, there are spiritual gifts being exercised in this place today and we know that takes of the Spirit of God's power in our midst. We can be pretty positive biblically about this, there will be demons here today, but God will be here today as well. May the Lord move in this place today, may He move. May that one little word be spoken. O Lord, you can speak it even now, "Go." And they must go. He can speak the word "Live." And you will live. Isn't that not what He said, he said there are some now who will hear the voice of the Son and when they hear it they will live. He's not talking about those in the grave, he's talking about those of you who came in here today and you're outside of Christ right now. You say, "Oh I'm not dead." Oh yes you are. You are. Not in the way you may think but there is a different kind of death that the bible talks about. We're hoping God will bring life.

So, where are we? We're still in Romans chapter 8. So if you've got your bibles please, we use the ESV here, if you have something else you can read along in your translation with these or just listen to me as I read from the ESV. I'm going to be reading here from Romans chapter 8 verses one through four. We've been here for some time, today I want us to look at verses 3 and 4, but for contexts sake we will pick up right in verse 1. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," and folks that is good news. That is good. "For the law," as we looked at there, the law does not mean law like a commandment, it means law like a principle that governs. "For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death," again the principle of the Spirit sets us free from the principle of sin and death. And here is where we want to give our specific attention, "for God has done what the law weakened by the flesh could not do, by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." Now most of you, most of you know what it is to sit beside a campfire right? Is there anyone here who just can't relate to that? Sitting by the campfire at night, and if you've done it like I have, there's something that is incredibly amazing about fire. Isn't there? Have you ever tried to figure out what fire is? And you know at night you'll sit there and look into those flames and they dance around and you look at the coals and the embers and sometimes they're white and sometimes they're red and sometimes they're orange and you watch them as they just glow and sometimes they pulsate as they glow. And if you've been there and you've done that one thing you've noticed, I think of Carlos, you know Carlos loves to make a fire. Anytime we've had a church get-away or go to someone's house Carlos is always right there, you know he wants to put it together.

He's prodding it. What happens if you sit by the fireside at night and you have this great big fire and Carlos comes by with a stick and he prods at that fire? What's going to happen? Something comes up out of the fire? Sparks, little glowing sparks. Now they come out all the time but when Carlos comes over and moves the wood around they just come out in a cloud. Now, I don't know what you think about when you see those sparks come up out of that fire but I know what an old wise and godly man named Job thought about when he saw those sparks come out. You know what he said? "Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward." Just as certain as sparks fly up out of a campfire when Carlos messes with it so man is born to trouble, problems, troubles, predicaments, complications, bad news. Are they ever far off from any of us in this life? Really, they're not, either you're in some now or they are always hovering just over the horizons. And that's true about you, that's true about me and that's true about the guy upstairs in that apartment. Folks, they come at us. We have money problems, ever had one of those anybody? A financial problem, financial difficulty; anybody who has not? Some of you children you're in a good place because you haven't yet but you will. We have money problems and we have job problems and we have car problems. Kenny, you ever heard of a car problem? We have marriage problems and health problems and housing problems, we have problems with our children. All you have to do is have children for about well all you have to do is be pregnant with them the problems already start. We are faced by, I mean, how many of you have had an air conditioning problem or a water heater problem? Folks problems, problems more problems. That is just the reality of our lives. And you know what? We don't like problems. We're always trying to fix and solve and mend and correct our problem. That's a reality. But there is one problem, a problem that every man has, a far more serious problem than all his other problems put together. And deep down in the recesses of his conscience man knows, man knows what that problem is! You know, Ruby and I met a man at Sutton Homes Thursday night, you know what this guy told us, he said he goes to church once a month and he lights candles. Why? Why would he do that? Because there's a faint echo that resonates with him that says you have a problem. Some people at Christmas time they throw money in the bucket, a red bucket the Salvation Army, some people walk on their knees until they bleed you ever heard of that? Some people fast for the entire month of Ramadan you ever hear of that? Others count beads and burn incense I saw that over Thailand and India, people burning incense is common among the Hindus it's common among the Buddhist. They spend their prayer wheels, people will baptize their little babies, or they will be baptized themselves. And I'm not saying in a biblical manner, they do it not because they are following Christ commandments to do so, they're doing so because they know, they know something is telling them they have a problem. Deep down inside they know there is a problem. Every thorn, every thistle, every bee sting and bug bite is telling them there's a problem. Every time the thunder crashes, their conscience tells them there's a problem. And man seeks a thousand different ways to silence that conscience from telling him that there is this problem. Folks, every time an animal runs from you, every time a bird flies away in fear because it sees you coming, you know what that's telling you there's a problem. Every time you go by a cemetery, every time you go by a funeral home it's whispering constantly, "There's a problem, a big problem." All around us are signs and indications and forebodings that this is true, man knows this is true. He tries to quiet himself inside from knowing, this problem folks is sin. Man's greatest and most serious problem of all

is sin. Now we have been studying the book of Romans for some time now and one thing we all need to realize is Romans is not, it is not just some lofty book for theologians. If one thing is certain about this epistle it is that Romans is a book that shows us what God has done to fix man's sin problem and that concerns all of us. This is not just for certain people in some place this is for every one of us. Every one, nothing could be clearer than that. Listen to me! In chapter 5 and 6 and 7 and 8 just four chapters the term sin or one of its synonyms is used 61 times. That means God has something to say about sin right here. God is very distinctly very definitely talking and making it the very emphasis in this portion of scripture to deal with sin. It's the most extensive treatment in all the bible concerning God's remedy for sin and I would add this here. As Paul talks this much about sin it is no accident at all that in these very same four chapters the word Jesus, the word Christ, the word Lord or a pronoun indicating him is used no less than 65 times. There just might be some indication in that, that Christ has something to do with the remedy for sin.

Can you get that? I mean, does that tend to lead us to that conclusion. I hope so. Now folks, is this important? Let's just put it this way if you do not find the remedy for your sin problem that is a big problem because a day is coming when every sin, oh you may have thought about them right now you may not be able to remember the sins you committed five years ago, but I'll tell you what there is a day coming when you will remember. There is because if you are outside of Christ there is a day coming when every sin you've ever committed will be like a burning hot coal laid on the tenderest part of your body. Folks that is a reality. What faces those who are outside of Christ concerning their sin is something that I cannot and you cannot comprehend right now. I can not put this in words to describe to you the fearsomeness of what it is to meet an angry God in your sin. Because every one of them will be brought to account, every single one of them. You may not be able to remember, you may think you've gotten away with that thing, you may think you're in the clear now, but oh folks there is a day when its all coming back, all of it, every bit. There's only one place to hide, if you're not in Christ you're not hidden. You're fully exposed. Oh and that does is coming, it is coming. It is a holy God has been offended and it is you that have offended Him. And does man think that he can burn his candles and make everything okay? Does man think that? He does. He seeks to do that. It's incredible. But I'll tell you this by walking in a church today you're not going to take care of that problem. You can go to church the rest of your life that does not fix your sin problem. You can own a bible, that doesn't fix it. You can count your beads, you can say your Hail Mary's, and you can do all these different things! It doesn't fix it. You can speak in tongues, you can get baptized, you can have an experience, and you can feel good that doesn't do it folks. The problem requires the fullness, this is a problem that man just does not have the capacity to solve, this requires the fullness of divine wisdom and the potent strength of deity. Do you know what scripture tells us back in the Psalms, "God has laid help upon one that is mighty." It is this mighty Christ that God has sent to deal the death-blow to sin and that's exactly what we find in Romans 8:3 and 4. Let's read these two verses together again, verses 3 and 4. Now follow what's being said, "God has done what the law weakened by the flesh could not do," so God effectually does something that the law was never effectual in pulling off. This is how He did it, it doesn't tell us yet what He did but He starts by telling us how He did it, "by sending His own Son

in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin He condemned sin in the flesh in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” I think we need to ask one question, how does this show Christ to be the mighty sin-killer? What’s going on in these two verses? With Gods help let’s look at this and draw things out.

Now what I want to do first, I want to do three things here, what I want to do first is look at the pieces and parts and grammatical makeup of these two verses, and then second as we’re doing that I want to also look at what some of the words and phrases mean and then third I want to try to wrap it all together so we get the big picture. So, here we go. Listen, you got to have your bibles open to Romans 8 and you got to be looking at verses 3 and 4. Because I want you to be persuaded of these things by God’s word, I don’t want you just to hear me. What I say is not the issue folks, what God says in His word is. So I want you to see this, I want you to grasp this. Well, here we go. For starters if you’re using the ESV and most of us are you will see a period about midway through verse 3 right after the word do. Do you guys see it there? There should be no period. Now remember punctuation isn’t in the original, men have added it after the fact. There should be no period there. And listen, no other English translation that I’ve looked at puts a period there, King James doesn’t, New King James doesn’t, NAS doesn’t, RSV doesn’t, Tyndale doesn’t, Geneva doesn’t, folks none of them. And there’s a good reason for not putting one there. Because in doing so what the ESV has done is they’ve actually separated the main noun of this sentence from the main verb of this sentence. It separates them from each other by putting them in separate sentences. They get away with this by supplying words that aren’t in the original. So you don’t really notice it. But check this out, the main noun or the subject for you English students is “God”. You see that there if you have an ESV in the second word of verse 3. And the main verb of this sentence appears to be “has done” or “did.” I say it appears. [Crying in background: Mya’s learning how to have a father.] But you guys the main verb here is not has done, that isn’t in the original at all, in fact if you have a New King James or a New American Standard you will notice the word has done or did is in italics meaning its added and not in the original. So if that’s not there in the original than where in the world is the verb that tells us what God is doing? Well, notice, do you see at the end of verse 3 where it says “he condemns sin in the flesh” there is your main verb. This is the action being carried out by the subject. The pronoun he right there right before the word “condemn” that’s also added, it’s not in the original. So the main thought here is this, God condemned sin! “He” was added, “did” was added. That is the main thought, the main action. Everything else in these two verses 3 and 4, is simply modifying this main clause, “God condemned sin.” I like the old King James rendering of this text for this reason: all the other translations, all the modern translations add words and rearrange things because they’re trying to make the two verses more readable, and that’s understandable as you’re trying to do a translation. They’re trying to make them more fluid. But listen to the old King James rendering of verse 3. “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” You hear it there. It’s more obvious that that indeed is what God is doing. Now listen to this again. God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh. Yes, He did it by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, but the grammatical main clause of this sentence is this: God

condemned sin. This is certain folks. It's not up for debate. This is the heart and soul of what these two verses teach: God condemned sin. And here's the next thing that is certain about this text, I'm telling you things that are certain because I'm going to get into the realm of things that maybe you begin to question and I'm going to try to prove those things as well, but these are certain things.

Here's the next thing that is certain: the law couldn't do something. Is that at all apparent to you? The law could not do something. What is the something it could not do? The thing it couldn't do folks, is the very thing God did, right? We all agree with that. Well what did God do, God condemned sin in the flesh. So if God condemned sin in the flesh than what is it that the law could not do? The very thing God did, right? Which is condemn sin in the flesh. So the think that the law could not do is condemn sin in the flesh. Now stop right there. What does it mean to condemn sin in the flesh? If God did it and the law couldn't do it what is it that God did and the law couldn't do? You say "condemn sin in the flesh." I realize that but what does it mean? What does that actually mean? Let's ponder the three words "God condemned sin." Now I think its important right here to consider what this doesn't say. It doesn't say that Christ condemned sin, it says that God did. Now you may say "that's a trivial..." No its not, clearly God here refers to God the Father. Why should we think that? Because the whole Trinity is presented in these two verses. Do you see it? There is God, His own Son that's the one He sent and in verse four you have the Spirit because we're to walk in the Spirit. So God here clearly indicates the Father. And notice carefully what else this doesn't say. It doesn't say that God condemned sinners. It doesn't say that God condemned Christ for our sins. Now both of these things would be true but that's not what's being said here, that's not the emphasis. Sin itself is the object of God's condemnation. I want you to get that because you can read across that and you can just get this feeling that it's Christ being condemned for sin. That's not what's being said. God is going after sin. In other words the sentence of death is pronounced not against men, not against Christ, but against sin. Remember this sinister power that rules men's mortal bodies as we saw in Romans 6? This condemnation is pronounced against sin in the flesh! Do you see what this is saying? If it just said that God condemns sin we might take this as a general statement that God will execute or has in Christ executed sin in such a way that at some point maybe when we die or when Jesus returns, its dealt with. But Paul is being much more specific than that, he says God condemned sin in the flesh. This is a declaration that God did something in the past that guarantees the condemnation of sin right in my own flesh! He's going after it right here folks. Not just in a legal manner. He's coming after it right where it dwells in such a way that its power will be destroyed from dwelling there. This is a declaration of the destruction of sin right within the corrupt human nature itself. God condemned sin right in the body of the flesh. Not just to deliver the Christian at death, but to deliver him from its power in this life.

Listen to Paul, you guys know this, Romans 6:14, "sin will have no dominion over you." Why? Why will it have no dominion? Because God condemns sin. That is sin's death sentence; God condemns and kills sin right in the flesh. To break the power of sin is to kill sin. Fair's Lexicon says the word condemn here means that "God deprives sin of its power in the human nature, breaking the deadly sway just as the condemnation and punishment of wicked men puts an end to their power to injure or do harm." Do you realize what that's saying? Yes, condemnation may be a legal declaration of your death

sentence. I heard of a man that was just put to death over Thursday in Huntsville for the murder of three people. Do you know what way back when that man went to court his condemnation came down, death. You know what that declaration of condemnation immediately took away his power to kill anymore, did it not? It's the same thing here, yes it's a legal declaration against sin, but in God making that and condemning it, it no longer has the power it had to injure and do harm. The emphasis is, remember, the emphasis is not that God condemned Jesus, as true as that is, the emphasis is that God condemned sin in the flesh. Now you can already see, you can already see that I believe that in the flesh is the place where sin is being condemned. I take flesh here to mean the fallen sinful nature of man. In fact if you have the NIV it says that very thing. It talks about that sinful nature. I believe this is saying that God condemned sin right where it dwells within man. Now folks, the reason I'm emphasizing this is because I don't believe this is saying that God condemned sin in Jesus' flesh. Now that is true, indeed! It is true. But I don't believe that is what is being said here. Here are just a few reasons why I think that. For one, in Romans 7 and 8 the two words "the flesh" is used 13 times besides right here what we're looking at. Every time it's used to indicate the sinful fallen nature of man not the flesh of Christ. Paul is preparing us to receive these two words in that way. Second thing, this says God condemned sin in "the" flesh. It doesn't say in Christ' flesh or in his flesh, the generic tone here seems to indicate flesh in a general sense, not the flesh of Christ individually. And then think about this, third, what couldn't the law do? The law could not condemn sin in the flesh. Now if you make that out to be Christ' flesh it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to say that the law couldn't condemn sin in the flesh of Christ. But to say it couldn't sin in our flesh makes a whole lot of sense! And where the law couldn't God could and did condemn sin in the flesh! Folks, taking the flesh here to be man's sinful nature fits so well in the context where we repeatedly have had this come at us again and again in Romans 7. I mean Romans 7:5, "While we were living in the flesh our sinful passions aroused by the law," you see what you've got? Sin in the flesh with the law there and can't help it, it only arouses more. You see 7:15, he says, "of the flesh", "slave of sin." The law's there, its spiritual, Romans 7, the guy can't do any good, he's constantly doing the evil that he doesn't want to do. In 7:25, "with my mind I serve the law of God with my flesh I serve the law of sin." There you've got it, law of sin in that flesh, you've got the law there but as we see in Romans 7, all the guy did was the thing he didn't want to do. You see folks, that's the idea, sin dwells in that flesh, faced by law can never help a man, never. That's what the law could not do. It never did it. That's what Romans 7 throws at us again, and again, and again, and again. You've got sin in the flesh and the law never, never, never helps. No matter how much I know it, no matter how much I desire it, it never helps. I just keep on doing the bad, the evil, I practice as the NAS says, practice evil. And furthermore it fits so well with verse 4. It just fits like a glove, God condemned sin in the flesh, our flesh Christian. (Romans) 8:4, "in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us." Do you see the correlation between in the flesh and in us? God condemned sin in us that is in our flesh in order that in us we would become those who uphold the righteous requirement of the law. Now again we need to stop right here and think about this. Let's read that first part of verse 4 again, it says, "in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us." Now some might say, "Hold on, hold on just a second." Some of you might take this to mean that Christ fulfilled the law for Christians when he obeyed the law perfectly and

died as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf. Someone might say that in Christ we are perfect with His perfection and in Him we're pardoned by His blood and in that in all that He has done, legally it can be said of us, we have fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law. And folks, of course that is true. I believe with my whole heart that's true. That is foundational for everything. But, I don't think that's the point of verse 4. This verse does not say that the requirement of the law is fulfilled for us which is true but that's not what it says, it says the righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in us, and Paul immediately and specifically focuses on our walk, not on our legal standing, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Listen to me, turn in your bibles to Romans chapter 13. Paul gives us reason in the book of Romans to take this statement exactly as I'm saying, exactly. Romans chapter 13 verses 8 through 10, will not us get away from viewing the righteous requirement of the law as an actual righteousness that we live out. Please turn there if you have it already I want you to read this with me. Romans 13:8, "Owe no one anything except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." We have the same wording there, fulfilled the law. The commandments you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet or any other commandment are summed up in this word. You shall love your neighbor as yourself; love does no wrong to a neighbor, therefore love is the fulfilling of the command. Now I just want to ask you a simple question, does verse 8 here command us to love? I just ask you that simple question; does it command us to love? It's commanding us not to owe but rather to love, so yes. And the one who loves does what? He fulfills the law. Paul is here commanding, he's expecting, he's anticipating that these Roman Christians will actually love and in so doing they will fulfill the law. Does all that make sense? It is expected.

Now let me wrap this all together. Go back to Romans chapter 8. I want to give you the basic picture here. We could have gone to a lot of different places, we could have gone to Galatians 5 and looked at the fact that again love indeed is the summing up of the law, there are a number of places we could have looked at to really draw that conclusion home. But here is the basic picture; the law could not condemn sin in the flesh, why not? Because it was weak through the flesh. The law simply could never get people to keep the law! No matter how much the law said, "Thou shalt" it never produced in anybody the ability to do what it commanded people to do, never. It couldn't because it could never do the one thing that was necessary to produce righteousness. It could not condemn sin in the flesh, it couldn't do anything. Folks this is the whole connection with Romans 7, the man in Romans 7 could never do good, that's what he says. (Romans) 7:19 says it, he never did good, he did bad, he did evil, only did evil. Why? Because the law was always too weak to help him. It could tell him what to do but it could never help him do what he needed to do. Did the guy in Romans 7 keep the law? No. He said he couldn't, he didn't, he wanted to but he never did. By Paul's own admission, the evil he didn't want to do was always what he kept on doing. But God on the other hand condemned sin in the flesh with such power and authority that it frees us to fulfill the righteous requirement of the law. Isn't that exactly what Paul said way back in chapter 2?

Listen to this, you don't have to turn there but listen, Romans 2:13, "It is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified." Listen, that is not just a theoretical statement that would be nice if that were possible. What he is saying here is yes, I realize we are justified. God justifies sinners

based on the righteousness of Jesus Christ and based on His atoning work. But there is a day when we will stand before God and you will be justified or condemned in that day folks based on your works. Scripture teaches this everywhere. The reality is that if you have been justified by the perfect life and death of Jesus Christ you know what happens you are set free from the law of sin and death, this law of the Spirit of life becomes operative in you and it is such a reality because God has condemned sin in your flesh set you free in order that you might become those who fulfill the law. And as Romans 2:13 says the doers of the law will be justified! Don't run from that! Don't fear that statement! That folks is a blessed reality! What that says to us is that God will make you into, is that not any different than we heard way back when the new covenant was given and prophesied about back in the Old Testament? God said this, God said in a legal fashion I will forgive all your sins, but He also said this, I'm going to put a spirit within you, a new spirit, I'm going to put a heart in you, a new heart and I am going to put my law upon your heart and you will keep them. All we see folks is Paul repeatedly telling us over and over that God is fulfilling the very covenant promises that He gave in the new covenant. Don't fear this. Don't say, "Oh no, this guys preaching that if you do good works that's how you earn merit with God." I'm telling you this, that's a lie right out of hell. Every bit of merit that we have with God is based on the work of Jesus Christ. But God's work in saving us is so manifestly powerful He condemned sin right in our flesh, right in its seat and He sets us free folks and we become those who as 1 John says the law is no longer burdensome to us. Folks, the path to law-keeping is not lists of rules and laws because they by themselves only arouse more sin as Romans 7:5 says and 7:9 reiterates. It is life in the Spirit, that's the reality. That's what this is all about; God mightily turns us into doers of the law. I mean folks this takes us all the way back to Romans 6:1, back in 6:1 Paul asks this question, do Christians then continue in sin? And I just say this, how in the world can you continue in sin if God almighty condemns sin in your flesh in order that you might bring forth this righteous fulfillment of the law. Don't you see you can't, absolutely can't. True Christianity is the unleashing of the almighty power of God in such a way that sin right where it seeks to dwell in that body of flesh is condemned. God smites it right there with a sentence of death. So look, what this comes back to over and over is Christian you have every reason to believe that God is going to give you the grace to keep His law and to love men. That's basically the summation, loving others. You have every reason to believe that as a Christian God is so going to work in your heart to put to death that sin in your flesh to release you to fly like an eagle folks and the freedom of loving God and loving your fellow man and fulfilling the law in so doing. And its also a warning to any of you claiming to be a Christian and you look at your life and realize you have no inclination to keep God's law, you have no inclination to love others, you are selfish, and self-serving, don't come in here and tell us you're a Christian. It doesn't fly folks because this God condemns sin in the flesh. Now, if you come in here and you say that describes my life but I don't claim to be a Christian, but I certainly am looking for some way to be delivered from this than this is giving you great hope. Because right here is where salvation is found folks, this is our hope.

Let me make one thing absolutely clear as I wind this down, it cost and awful price to make God's people into fulfillers of the law. Taking some old selfish wretched fool or some pathetic filthy whore and condemning sin in their flesh and turning them into law-doers and man-lovers did not come cheap. God did condemn sin in the flesh and He did it



at a high cost to Himself by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, the eternal Son of God who is always beside His Father daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him was sent robed with flesh so like ours that Paul calls it sinful flesh yet Christ was so perfect and without sin that Paul has to draw back from that and not just say sinful flesh but he can only say the likeness of sinful flesh, for sin. Do you see those two little words? For sin. I look at those and I understand that in the same way I understand a big brother who said to the playground bully, "If you touch my sister I'm coming for you." Likewise God set His attention to sin; He says I'm sending my own Son for you. He's coming to get you, He's talking to sin. Christ is sacrificial offering that dooms sin and by the death of Christ upon the cross wearing the likeness of our sinful flesh Christ paid with his life. Folks, when he paid with his life he unleashed an explosive power, we're talking the power of resurrection, the power of the Spirit of God. If I walk in that Spirit folks, I will not walk in the flesh; I will not walk in the power of sin. If I walk in that Spirit I'm walking in that law, remember the law of the Spirit of life which sets me free from the law of sin and death. I am free. There is power that Christ has unleashed by His death. It is a power of glory. This glory shines throughout Romans 6, 7, and 8. This sin shall not have dominion over you, Christian!

I can remember one time seeing; maybe some of you have seen this, old Stonewall Jackson you know who I mean? He told his men as they charged upon the enemies you yell like furies, and I've got that image in my mind I'm thinking Christians you make up a Christian army, you are in a battle, you battle sin, you battle the devil. I can tell you the same thing you yell like furies and charge in against the enemy, but the beauty is folks is God has condemned that sin in you! He has condemned it there! And this is all for the glory of Jesus Christ. Brethren, we must fulfill the righteous requirement of the law. Listen to this in closing, Romans 15:18, Paul says, again we're in Romans, I'm trying to put all this, pack all this in a snowball for you so that you see this overriding theme throughout the book of Romans. Rest right here, Paul says, "I will not venture to speak anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed." What has Christ accomplished through Paul? What is it this mighty Savior is doing? He brings the Gentiles to obedience. It's what He does. This is another way of saying He is making them fulfillers of the law and at the very end of the letter, Romans 16:26, the command of the Eternal God is to bring about the obedience of faith. This is the same way he started the letter back in Romans 1:5,"Through Jesus Christ our Lord we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations." Do you realize what that's saying? Paul says look, Jesus Christ has done something through me, what He's done through me, says Romans 15, He's brought the Gentiles to obedience. Do you know what it says in Romans 1:5, He says for the sake of His name its all about bringing obedience that flows from faith, the obedience of faith. It's the same way he wraps up the book right at the end in chapter 16. Folks, do you see the picture here, this salvation that the book of Romans is teaching about is meant to ultimately conclude in your obedience. You're fulfilling of the law that is what brings glory to Christ. That is what Paul alone would boast in. That is what we do for the sake of His name.

Listen Christianity that is devoid of people who love, people who are fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law does not bring glory to Jesus Christ; it's a farce. It is not God's salvation. It's short of the real thing. We can look at Christianity and we can call it

a whole lot of things. But I'll tell you one thing it is folks, true Christianity makes people righteous, it makes people good, it makes them law-keepers, law-fulfillers, it makes them unselfish, it makes them humble, it breaks their pride, it makes them into people who care about others, it makes them into people who are constantly filling their life with doing good, and speaking good, and acting good, and living good. Folks, the bible talks about making people righteous. As I said last week, yes God saves people in their sin but he does not leave them there. He condemns sin in the flesh. Ah, we get to move on now. Next week Brother Charles is preaching and now we can fly. I felt so bound by these four verses just because they really are difficult. And I mean if you have 20 different commentaries on Romans you will read 20 different opinions about what these first four verses mean. But all I want to do is folks, just look at the words as they pour off the pages of scripture here. Does God give us reason to believe the fulfilling of the law in us is about us becoming righteous people? I think Paul prepares us for that by giving us you know, the instruction that he does in Romans 13, it seems pretty plain, fulfilling the law equating to love. Yep, he expects that Christians will do that. There's no question about it as you walk in the Spirit the deeds of the flesh folks, you've got to be putting them away otherwise as we move into 8 it says if you're not doing that you don't belong to Christ. You don't belong to Christ because you don't have the Spirit. And if you do have the Spirit you're putting to death the deeds of the flesh. There's no question about that folks, that's the reality. If you belong to Jesus Christ, what is it Galatians 5:24 says you will be putting to death the passions and desires of the flesh. There's no question about it, it's a reality. Folks, there is a law of the Spirit of life that can set you free and God sent His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to accomplish this for sin! That is your big problem. Oh, did we not look at He's a friend, He's a brother, and He is our big brother. And God sent Him to take care of our enemy; your greatest enemy is not the devil folks. Your greatest enemy is inside you. Praise the Lord, we as Christians God condemned that sin.

You know its like that condemned criminal that hangs on the cross, they're not dead yet but it's crucified. There's just a few things in the new testament that talk about the fact that there's something that's been crucified. May God quicken us in this path. Amen. You are dismissed.