

Apply The Word

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EIGHT_{ON}VIII
GOSPEL HOPE from ROMANS 8

Message Info

Title:

Condemnation
Cancelled

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

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Scriptures:

Romans 8:1

Theme: Be at peace Christian, your condemnation is cancelled.

Introduction: "Cancel culture" has become all the rage, as various groups work to destroy the reputation, platform, or even livelihood of anyone who has violated their standards and whom they deem to be unfit. However, cancel culture can be resisted and overcome by those with the courage to do so (cf. Matt 10:28). Only God can truly cancel someone. Yet in his grace has made a way for us to be pardoned and welcomed instead.

Romans 8:1 reveals 3 aspects of God's saving work to rescue us from the condemnation we deserve:

1. Condemnation

Condemnation is more than a feeling—it means, to declare to be wrong; and it is strongly associated with God's judgment against sin.

In the first 7 chapters of Romans, Paul shows that all men—Jew and Gentile alike—are justly under the condemnation of God and deserve his wrath (cf. 3:10-12, 18).

In essence, Paul has declared the whole of humanity to be guilty before God and condemned. We have all rebelled against him.

2. Condemnation cancelled

In chapter 7, we are given insight into Paul's wrestling with condemnation in light of the reality of his own sin (7:21-25).

Yet the amazing promise of 8:1 is that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. He has done all we need to be forgiven and counted righteous. When we trust in him, we moved from condemned to justified.

This cancellation of condemnation does not remove a sense of sorrow when we sin; but it should remove our condemnation as we hope in Christ.

3. Cancelled for the Christ-unified

When we trust in Jesus we are united to him. We receive the rewards for his work, as we experience the death he died to sin and the resurrection he achieved over death. We are also rescued from the "serpent's gospel": the false idea that there is no punishment for anyone who does wrong. That lie is as old as the Garden.

The Christian's clear hope comes only in union with Christ: he is the basis of our vindication, not a false gospel that God doesn't care about sin.

Questions:

1. How do you struggle with condemnation?
2. Do your feelings have more functional authority in your life than the gospel?
3. What do you do when you feel condemned? Do you seek to move on or distract yourself? Or do you turn to Jesus?