

Rom 8:1-8 Theological Themes

1. The prospect of condemnation and punishment for judgment is no longer a reality for those who are in Christ. This is a main theme of the New Testament – justification and freedom from judgment.
2. Although the term “in Christ” is not defined here, some light is shed on the concept, which is developed elsewhere in Paul, by listing one of its results as being freedom from condemnation.
3. This present (now) reality. “...so has the eschatological judgment in principle taken place in the death of Christ. ...justification – acquittal by the righteous judge...[has] become matters of present experience to the man in Christ.” Ladd p. 374.
4. The law by itself is unable to bring about salvation. This is a main theme of Paul especially in Galatians and in the 7th chapter of Romans. The weakness is because of the flesh. The law is not bad, just impotent.
5. One of the reasons Paul give for no condemnation is that you have been set free. The term set free is used thought the NT as a term for redemption by paying the ransom price. Cf. Morris – Apostolic Preaching of the Cross.
6. The second reason for there being no condemnation is that God judged sin by sending His Son. This is said by the most famous verse, Jn 3:16...He sent His Son, so that whoever believe in Him will not be condemned...
7. The wording of “in the likeness of sinful flesh” allows the doctrine of a real incarnation, and disallows that Jesus participated in the sinfulness of humanity. He had no sin. 2 Cor 5:21
8. The term “concerning sin” describes how God judged sin in that it is the same term used for “sin offering”. This understanding is very consistent with the doctrine of Christ being a substitute offering for our sin found throughout the New Testament.
9. “The righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled” is the purpose and the realized result of this judging of sin. As those in Christ, we are no longer under the law because the law was fulfilled in Christ.
10. The opposing of the flesh and Spirit is also dealt with directly in Gal. 5.