

Challenge

March 2005

PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP (AUST.) INC.

Romans 8: 1-2

As a Christian there are lots of precious truths that mean so much to me. Often I dwell on the fact that salvation is such an overwhelming gift. However, one of the constant struggles I had, particularly early in my Christian walk, was how do I live this new found faith in Christ?

It is comforting to know that this very issue is dealt with in the New Testament. In Romans chapter 7 Paul talks about the impact of the law on our conscience. The law reveals to us that we are sinners. Romans 3: verse 20 says “*Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*”

So we discover, like Paul did, that the law is good in that it reveals us as sinners, but it does not have the power to set us free from the power of sin. Then in Romans 7: verse 18 Paul declares every new Christian’s dilemma; “*For I know that in me (that is, my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.*”

Often God will allow failure in our Christian walk so that we realise that we cannot live the Christian life. We need to see what we are in ourselves, so that we will gladly abandon our flesh life, to a life of complete dependence upon God.

Romans 7: verses 24 and 25 declares Paul’s understanding of this principle: “*O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord*”

Then in Romans 8: verses 1 and 2 the impact of this revelation is explained to us. On the basis of the finished work of Calvary there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

The word “condemnation” has two meanings that underline the immediate effect of placing our faith in Christ. Firstly it has the meaning of a person who has been accused of an offence and is standing before a judge awaiting his decision. The judge lifts his gavel and declares him not guilty. Why? Because the blood of Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for our sin in full. So we are justified. Romans 5: verse 1 “*Having been justified by faith we now have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*” The blood of Jesus Christ has made us as though we had not sinned.

Secondly the word “condemnation” has the meaning of a couple who have a house mortgage. The day comes when they make their last payment and so the house is unencumbered – debt free – no more to be paid. That is exactly what happened at Calvary. The debt for our sin has been paid in full by the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The cross of Christ has not only dealt with the penalty of sin, but also the power of sin. Romans 8: verse 2 “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*”

The law could not deliver you and me from the power of sin, but the cross of Christ has. Notice how Paul says that the “*law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free...*” It is a reality, at least in theory, but only becomes a reality as we trust completely in the risen Christ.

Again and again I have met Christians who have been mistakenly trying to overcome sin in their own strength, only to become totally frustrated and discouraged. Why? Well we need to see sin as a law, just like gravity is a law. No matter how hard I try to resist gravity I can’t overcome it in and of myself.

Recently I was flying out of Perth airport. It was amazing to see aircraft weighing hundreds of tons suddenly lift off the ground. Why? Because the law of gravity has been replaced by the law of aerodynamics. At Calvary the law of sin and death was replaced by the law of the Spirit of life. Faith is what makes this a reality so that we can live consistent godly lives in Christ Jesus.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge



(Please turn over)

Praise:

1. Praise the Lord that He is blessing the ministry and staff in many ways. We have seen the Lord’s provision in different ways.
2. Praise God for all our partner organisations that make it possible to achieve the breadth of outreach that we do at present.
3. Praise God for the Lord’s on-going provision financially. We are so thankful to those who give to us on a regular basis.
4. Praise the Lord for the number of Christian people that use the Challenge newspaper for their evangelism in various places around Australia and beyond.

Prayer:

1. Pray for the various editions of the paper that are produced month by month.
2. Pray for the new venture with Outback Focus as every step that we take is a step of faith. We are calling this our Outback project and we need to raise \$1,500 per month to properly fund it and we would be most grateful for your prayer for this project. We are sending our first 4000 papers this month to the outer regions of Queensland.
3. Pray for our partner organisation in South Africa, Multi Ministries. Specifically pray for Harold Peasley and his team and for those that handle the distribution of the “Today’s Challenge” in South Africa.
4. Pray for the Lord’s leading and wisdom as we look to moving into neighbouring African countries and beyond. There is a lot to think through and plan so that we can establish and maintain the distribution of the paper once we have started.
5. Pray for the continued care and protection of the Challenge building, equipment and staff. Ministry life is very busy and one requires godly wisdom in maintaining a God-ordained work schedule.
6. Continue to pray for finances to clear our debt to pay for the purchase of the Challenge vehicle.
7. Pray for God’s leading and direction for the Challenge Board members as they prayerfully consider the Vision for 2005 of the Challenge Literature Fellowship.



Send your testimony to **Challenge** – *Your conversion to Jesus Christ is a miracle, and is a wonderful means of witnessing to a lost world – Ring or write or email to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.*

Challenge Literature Fellowship

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