

 **DEVOTIONAL**

Romans 8:1-2

As Christians 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 no one will be declared righteous in His sight by observing the law, rather through the law we become conscious 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 Christians’ dilemma; *“For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.”*

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; *“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

Then in Romans 8, verses 1 & 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, *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we 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



Construction worker reading newspaper



Impact Africa team member handing out newspapers and explaining the gospel



sin, but also the power of sin. Romans 8, verse 2, *“Because through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life set 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 *“through Christ Jesus the law of the spirit of life set 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? 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.

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 to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.

Address: PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985,
Phone **(08) 9453 3311** or Fax **(08) 9453 3006**
Email: info@challengenews.org

Challenge Bank Account direct deposit details
BSB: 066162 / Account: 00900455

POINTS TO PONDER

PRAYER AND PRAISE POINTS

- In Australia the distribution of the Challenge newspaper averages 50,000 per month but our great goal is to see it increase to 75,000 per month. Please remember in prayer the recent trip that Andrew Trezona took to Victoria and New South Wales and the work being done in Victoria with our rep there Don Kennedy.
- Please pray for the Prison Chaplains Conference that Andrew attended and we trust the Lord for the opportunity of getting Challenge into prisons right around this nation. Our prison chaplain in South Africa said on one occasion that the prison edition of the paper had literally changed the culture of his prison. That is our desire for Australia also.
- Please pray for all the contacts Andrew has made in New South Wales at the Armadale Diocese Conference where there were some 60+ ministers in attendance and that represented over 50 churches. Our great desire is to expand the work of Challenge into the country areas of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland as we do not have a huge presence in these areas.
- Please pray for our United States edition where we are generating a new edition for their summer season. Our representative there, Doug Cornelius, has been struggling with his health and would value your prayer as he endeavours to continue being our rep. The response to this summer edition is way down on what we had last year, so please pray that God would really rekindle the interest in what we are doing. Please also pray for our other representative, Bryon Smith, who is based in Alabama and for his promotion and development work there in the states of Alabama, Tennessee etc.
- Please pray for our paper in India and our director there, Sheldon Samuel, who has been very busy in promoting the first edition of the paper in India into a number of the main cities in central, west and east India. The response to the paper has been phenomenal and the interest overwhelming to say the least. Please pray for the finances to double our print run from 50,000 to 100,000 and also to have the people to do the translation work for a Hindi/Tamil edition of the paper. Please pray for the official registration of the newspaper in India.
- Please pray for our representative in Latin America, Will Herndon, who is very busy at the moment with his

responsibilities with Word of Life and also as he endeavours to promote and develop the work of Challenge in Latin America. We have negotiated an arrangement with Word of Life which will allow us to go into all of the countries in South and Central America.



Will and Ale Herndon

- In partnership with CLC (Christian Literature Crusade). We are working in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vanuatu. Please pray for the re-establishment of our work in New Zealand as we have now commenced printing our paper again under the banner of Challenge Weekly. We will be printing six editions per year with Challenge Weekly and we are asking the Lord to bless the growth of the paper to 20,000 per month.
- Please pray for our work in South and Central Africa where we are working with Multi Ministries in South Africa. Please remember Harold Peasley, the founding director of Multi Ministries as he recovers from triple by-pass surgery. Please pray for the appointment of a new director for the work of Challenge of South Africa. We have got a gentleman in mind and would value pray as we look to raise the necessary finances to support him and get him on the road promoting and developing the work in South and Central Africa.
- Continue to pray for the work in Malawi where we work with Jonathan and Ruth Newell from Christian Missions in Many Lands. Pray for a reasonable quote for the printing of the paper in Malawi and for effective distribution.
- We praise the Lord for the way that He has blessed the distribution of the paper globally and also for the many commitments to Jesus Christ that are coming in. Please pray for the new believers, for their faith and that there will be people willing and able to disciple them.



Harold Peasley

MY RESPONSE

Post to: Challenge Literature Fellowship, PO Box 978, Cloverdale WA 6985 or Fax to **(08) 9453 3006**

Name: _____

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

with God's help I would like to be a partner in supporting the ministry at Challenge in the following way(s):

- Prayer: Please send me updated prayer information
- Financial: Please receive my: Monthly Quarterly Yearly One time contribution of:
 - \$50 \$75 \$100 \$200 Other: \$ _____

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Credit Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____ Expiry Date []/[]