

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

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## THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION FOR CHRIST FOLLOWERS

**ROMANS 7:21; 8:1**

**Romans 8 Series: “The Mountain Peak of Scripture –  
Our Hymn Of Hope.”**

When you read and study the first seven chapters of the Book of Romans, God has used his Word to expose each of us as desperately depraved sinners. At the risk of over-promising and under-delivering, our text today from Romans 8:1 could be the most life-changing section of Scripture you will ever encounter. **It is my personal opinion that this is the Greatest Chapter In The Bible for the Christian believer.**

Romans 8 has been called, “**The inner sanctuary within the cathedral of Christian faith.**” Let me list some reasons why I think so many people have benefited so much from these verses.

1. Assurance is emphasized
2. The Holy Spirit is prominent
3. This chapter contains the essence of Christianity

We’re going to repeat this verse several times this morning so that by the time we’re done, we’ll have it memorized. Are you ready? Here we go!

### I. The WHY: “THERE IS THEREFORE...”

The word “**therefore**” serves to tie the proceeding seven chapters with chapter 8 by serving as a link to everything that Paul has established. It can be translated this way: “So, then, consequently.” I’ve picked just one verse from each of the first seven chapters to remind us of these 7 chapters that proceeds Romans 8... Look now with me at these 7 verses in the first 7 chapters:

**Romans: 1:18, 2:5, 3:12, 4:13, 5:18, 6:11, 7:24**

Let’s work on that first phrase together: “**There is therefore...**”

### II. THE WHEN “NOW”

For the born-again believer there is assurance that there will be no judgment to come in the future, but I want you to notice that we can and should experience this assurance right now in the present. Therefore, there is today no condemnation. Now we’ll add just one word to the phrase we’ve already learned: “**There is therefore NOW...**”

### III. WHAT: “NO CONDEMNATION”

Paul chose a strong negation to make the point that there is absolutely nothing by way of condemnation for the Christian. We could say it like this: “*Not even one will ever be condemned to hell who is in Christ Jesus.*” The word “**condemn**” comes from two Greek words; one which means “**down**” and the other which means “**to judge.**” Literally it means to “**judge down**”. Here’s an important truth to remember. When God says “no condemnation” it’s not based upon our **performance** but on our **position** in Christ and Christ alone.

OK, let’s add the phrase “**no condemnation**” to the first part of the verse. Ready? Let’s say it together: “*There is therefore no CONDEMNATION...*” Let’s say that again.

### IV. WHO: “TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS”

This promise of no condemnation is available for all but applied only to those who are in Christ Jesus. It’s not automatic just because you’re an American or just because you go to church or just because you’ve given some money or done some cool things for others. It’s only for those who are “**in Christ Jesus.**” This is one of Paul’s favorite phrases, using “**in Christ**” 164 different times. Now let me illustrate that phrase “**In Christ**”. It is like **NOAH and the Ark**. What it meant for Noah to be “**in the ark,**” it means for us to be “**in Christ.**” If you have accepted Christ God is not angry with you, regardless of what you have done. He loves you and cherishes you. Listen Our Heavenly Father is giving you a thumbs-up because you matter to Him.

While we may celebrate this Scripture and be able to memorize it, I know that many of you struggle to personally put it into practice so let’s get really specific. I’m going to make a statement that will reflect what some people think, and I want all of us to **respond** with the promise of **Romans 8:1**: “*There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.*” Are you ready? Let’s go!

If you are in Christ revel in the fact that God is crazy about you. If you are outside of Christ, you are condemned already, and judgment is still in front of you. Come to Him now. Run to Him for safety. Let’s say our verse together one more time: “*There is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.*”