

THE BIBLE VIEW

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What a Christian Has

Bill Brinkworth

From time to time, one hears a complaining Christian murmur, "I am a Christian. I can't do this or that." They sound like they do not enjoy being a Christian. They forget who they are and what they really have. Romans 8 reminds us of some of the many advantages of being a Christian. When we are saved, the blessings include:

- We are not condemned (Rom. 8:1) for the many sins we have committed.
"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Romans 8:1
Matthew Henry wrote, "Paul does not say, 'There is no accusation against them,' for this there is, but the accusation is thrown out, and the indictment quashed. He does not say, 'There is nothing in them that deserves condemnation,' for this there is, and they see it, and own it, and mourn over it, and condemn themselves for it; but it shall not be their ruin. He does not say, 'There is no cross, no affliction to them or no displeasure in the affliction,' for this there may be, but no condemnation." We are protected from the law's judgment on our sins because of Christ.
- We can be led by the indwelling Spirit of God. We do not have to follow the flesh that only wants to do what feels right to it, and leads us to commit damaging sin. We can follow God's perfect, safe guidance (Rom. 8:5).
- Because we can follow the Spirit of God, we can please God (Rom. 8:8). Before the Spirit guided us, we did not please God.
- We are "sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).
- We are adopted into God's family when we are saved (Rom. 8:15). He is our "Abba," our Father. There is no greater honor than to be able to call the Creator of everything "Father." We can, once we are saved!
- We are no longer bound by sin. We are freed from its control (Rom. 8:15-16).
- The indwelling Spirit lets us know that we are different. We are children of God (Rom. 8:16).
- When we love God and obey Him, we know that all that happens to us will turn out for our good and God's glory (Rom. 8:28). There is no more need to be afraid because God is for you (Rom. 8:31).
- No person or circumstance can separate us from our loving God (Rom. 8:35-39).

So, praise the Lord! If you are saved, you are on the winning side. You have much to be thankful for.

“If you live for God you might miss some things: drunkenness, AIDS, divorce, jail, etc.” — *Barbara Brinkworth*

Unconscious of Bondage

Dr. W. H. Griffith Thomas

One reason many have never realized their bondage to sin may seem very paradoxical, but it is, nevertheless, very true. It is because they have never tried to get free.

Imagine a yard where a dog is heavily chained. The dog, however, is fast asleep, and so he does not realize his bondage. Later, we may even notice the dog eating his food, still chained, but as the food is close to the kennel, his chain is not irksome, and he is thus still unconscious of his bondage.

Soon comes the owner of the dog, who, forgetting the chain, calls the dog. The animal springs up, eager to reach his master. What happens then? All his efforts are in vain, and now for the first time, he feels the irksomeness and restraint of his fetters. It is similar to sin. Try to get free, and you will feel your bondage.

"No man is free who cannot command himself." — *Pythagoras*

The Pilgrim's Treasure

Author Unknown

The breaking waves dashed high
On a stern and rockbound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed;
And the heavy night hung dark.
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark,
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the truehearted came;
Not with the roll of the stirring drums,
And the trumpet that sings of fame;
Amidst the storm, they sang,
And the stars heard, and the sea;
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free.

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war?
They sought a faith's pure shrine!

Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod;
They have left unstained what there they found,
Freedom to worship God!

Having Spiritual Freedom

George Washington

If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that the Constitution framed in the convention, where I had the honor to preside, might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical society, I would never have placed my signature to it; and, if I could now conceive that the general government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded, that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution. For you doubtless remember, that I have often expressed my sentiments, that every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for his religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience.

From a letter to United Baptist Churches of Virginia, May 10, 1789

“The first thing necessary to control the people is to separate them from their heritage.” — Karl Marx

Chain and All

D. L. Moody

A minister was talking to a man in the inquiry room about his salvation. The man said, “My heart is so hard it seems as if it was chained, and I cannot be saved.”

“Come along, chain and all,” said the minister, and he just came to Christ, hard heart, chain, and all, and Christ snapped the fetters, and set him free.

If you are bound by Satan, it is the work of God to break the fetters. You cannot break them.

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” *John 8:34-36*