

No Condemnation

Kyle Rittenhouse, not guilty, but not innocent. But declared not guilty on all five counts by a jury of his peers. After the jury's verdict, Kyle was a free man, kinda.

Our text:

²⁴ *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from ^{1a}the body of this ^bdeath?*

²⁵ *^aThanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, I myself with my flesh am serving ^bthe law of sin.*

Paul's question: *Who will set me free from ^{1a}the body of this ^bdeath?*

His answer: God will.

Our question should be, "What is 'the body of this death?'"

The answer is, ***Ephesians 2:1*** *And you ¹were ^adead ²in your trespasses and sins. And this from **Romans 5,** ¹² *Therefore, just as through ^aone man sin entered into the world, and ^bdeath through sin, and ^cso death spread to all men, because all sinned—**

Everyone of us here this morning inherited certain physical traits from our parents. Your height came from either your parents or your grandparents. Your hair, or lack thereof, came from one of your parents. Our facial features came from someone in our lineage. I find myself doing things the way my father did them. Sometimes when I'm driving, I find myself sitting and holding my arms the way my dad did. And that's what Paul is saying about sin and death. We have inherited the sin and death that Adam and Eve brought into this world as our original parents. It is human nature.

My question is, "When will God free me from the body of this death?"

The answer is, "Not now but when I pass or in the rapture." Listen to Romans 7:25 again, *So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God,* That is every disciple of Christ right now. Hear it again, *So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God,* That simply means that you and I know that the Law of

God is right and just and holy. It does not mean that we are trying to be made right with God by keeping the law. It simply means that we acknowledge that God's Law is right.

Note that Paul said, "with my mind I am serving the law of God." He does not say that with his body he is serving the law of God. Here's why I say that, *but on the other hand, I myself with my flesh am serving^b the law of sin.* And that is every disciple of Christ right now. That is the reality of the Christian life. We ourselves, those who are in Christ, are at this present time serving the law of sin with our flesh, that part of us that is perishing and corrupt. And while we are in these corrupt, flesh and blood bodies, it will be that way. We will grow stronger as we mature, of course, and sin will become less and less of a problem, but it will still hold some sway over us.

Since Beverly and I married, I have learned so much about myself and my remaining sinfulness, mostly how full of sinful pride I am. And that has come through driving with Beverly acting as my direction-giver. I have found myself snapping at her for telling me when and where to turn and how to get to wherever it is we're going. No one likes a backseat driver but in our case it is almost solely because of my stubborn sinful pride. And confess to her almost daily that I was wrong and she was right. That is my serving the law of sin that is working inside the body of this death that is my flesh.

"God has every believer covered through His finished work of redemption in Christ."

^{NAU} *Romans 8:1* Therefore there is now no ^acondemnation for those who are ^bin ^cChrist Jesus.

² For ^athe law of the Spirit of life ¹in ^bChrist Jesus ^chas set you free from the law of sin and of death.

(Rom. 7:24-8:2 NAU)

² For ^athe law of the Spirit of life ¹in ^bChrist Jesus ^chas set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Did you see the video of Kyle Rittenhouse listening to the jury reading its verdicts? Toward the end of the verdicts, Kyle began shaking

uncontrollably and then he collapsed. He and his lawyers knew at that moment that Kyle Rittenhouse was a free man. Knowing that he was free from all charges was so freeing from the burden he had lived with for over a year. The very law that he had been accused of breaking had now set him free.

Beloved, that should have been your reaction at the moment when you heard the gospel, the good news that you were free from the burden you had been under until that moment. ² For ^athe law of the Spirit of life ¹in ^bChrist Jesus ^chas set you free from the law of sin and of death.

The moment God opened my eyes to see that He had forgiven me all my sins through His finished work of redemption on Calvary's cross, I began crying.

Now, something that used to trouble me, how can it be that while I am at this present time serving the law of sin with my flesh, Paul can say I am not condemned? ^{NAU} **Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no ^acondemnation for those who are ^bin ^cChrist Jesus. Here's how: ² For ^athe law of the Spirit of life ¹in ^bChrist Jesus ^chas set you free from the law of sin and of death. **God's pronounced verdict in your case is that you are free. We are free from the burden of the Law and the consequences of our sins. We will never be condemned. And the divine 5th Amendment applies to all who are in Christ. There is no danger of double jeopardy for us. We will never be charged with our sins, ever.** ⁷ *"aBLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.*

⁸ *"aBLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT bTAKE INTO ACCOUNT."* (Rom. 4:7-8 NAU). Those are my favorite beatitudes. Those are the sweetest and most powerful words I have ever heard in my spirit or in my flesh. Beloved, that is the gospel.

That is why the gospel is good news. It is good news for every human being regardless of what they have done before hearing the gospel. It is good news for everyone regardless of where they live or how they were raised. The sinner's present circumstances cannot

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nullify God's finished work through Christ on the cross and the empty tomb.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

“The wages of sin is death.”

And God's answer for all that is “but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ.”

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² For ^athe law of the Spirit of life ¹in ^bChrist Jesus ^chas set you free from the law of sin and of death.

³ For ^awhat the Law could not do, ^{1b}weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in ^cthe likeness of ²sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

⁴ so that the ^arequirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who ^bdo not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (Rom. 8:1-4 NAU)