

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Now”

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” Romans 8:1 (NKJV)

One of the things that severely compromise our freedom and liberty in Christ Jesus our Lord is when we re-litigate the sin and errors in our life that God has already forgiven and forgotten. For reasons that are often unknown we just can't seem to grasp the magnitude of God's love for us and the all encompassing atoning death of Christ and the shedding of his innocent blood for the remission of our sins. Certainly it is hard to comprehend in human terms, but that is when our faith and trust in Jesus must come to the forefront. Easier said than done, right? We have all had this struggle to some degree at some juncture in our journey with the Lord. We've fallen short of the glory of God. We are in deep remorse and regret, we ask the Lord to forgive us, often using I John 1:9 as our biblical frame of reference, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” We know that we are forgiven, we believe in and trust the blood of Jesus, but we still continue to carry the weight and burden of self-condemnation.

Thank God that the blood of Jesus and the immediacy of the hour of our need were met without delay. Now! Right now there is no condemnation. There is no probationary period. No future litigation. All of the evidence has been reviewed. We all stand guilty before the throne of a holy, righteous, and just God, yet in spite of what we have done we have been forgiven. It doesn't mean we didn't do it, nor does it mean that we have been acquitted, but God in His sovereignty and in honor of the blood of His son no longer judges us in regard to that particular transgression. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12 (NKJV) Unlike the North Pole, and the South Pole, east and west are not confined by latitude and thus they continue into infinity never ever to meet. That is in essence how far God has removed our transgressions from us.

So now, right now, at this precise moment you are no longer condemned. Now! Now was then when you were forgiven the first time, and now is now, because the reality of it continues to operate in real time. Now! Right Now! You don't have to wait until you get to heaven to be released from the pain, remorse, and guilt. The power of the blood of Jesus will release you right now! Hallelujah! But this promise and commitment from the Father through Jesus is not for everyone to enjoy. It is for those who are in Christ Jesus. Being “in Christ Jesus” is not comparable to being in a club, in a fraternity, in an association, or in a fellowship. It is the salvation, safety, and security of every twice born, blood bought believer. “Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) If you are in Christ Jesus, He has bought your pardon and secured your freedom.

Finally, there is one additional contingency. We must walk according to the Spirit and not the flesh. That in and of itself, should be the primary goal of those who claim Jesus as Lord. But let's be real, it is clearly a war. There is nothing that is good in our flesh or our old sin nature, and then there is freedom in the Spirit of the Living God that provides us peace among other things that in turn allow us to live life to God's glory. When we fall short of God's divine standard our spirit bears witness with the Spirit of God that we have been forgiven and set free from any condemnatory sentence. Yet our flesh, not to be out done, and in cooperation with our mind continues to bombard us with memories, downloads, accusations, mockery, and struggle concerning our past sins. We must resist and we must resist now. Now! No longer condemned.