

What is the theme of this chapter?

Ans: It is not sanctification. It is not primarily the Christian's walk. It is the security of the justified believer in Christ.

The opposite term to the word "condemnation" is justification. This chapter is dealing with the impossibility that a justified believer may be cast away from God and lose his salvation. It is a chapter that brings great comfort to the believer based on solid reasons for the believer's security in Christ.

What does "therefore" in v1 refer back to?

Ans: It goes back to chapter 5 and the theme of justification. It also goes back to the thesis of Romans found in ch. 1:16-17 – "...the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith."

In our previous studies on Romans we noted that chapters 6 & 7 are parenthetical. They meet an objection to the truth of the doctrine of justification by grace alone – that when a person is told he is fully secure in Christ, or fully justified from all sin, that he will use it as a licence to continue in sin. Paul answered that with a "God forbid." So Romans 8:1 goes back to the gospel truths found in Romans 1 – 5.

How do we know this assurance of security applies to believers in Christ?

Ans: See Paul's emphasis on the believer's union with Christ. He wrote to those who are "in Christ Jesus." That union with Christ was spoken of in chapter 5:1 under the truth of justification. It also dealt with it under the theme of Christ as our head or representative Ch.5:17-19. It is also covered in the parenthetical issue of the believer being planted in Christ ch. 6:5, and again of the believer being married to Christ ch. 7:4. To such people there is no condemnation; there is total and eternal security for their souls.

How is the theme of the believer's security developed in this chapter?

Ans: It is to be noted in this outline on Romans chapter 8.

V 1 - 13 Security through the indwelling Spirit – the Spirit of Christ – the result of union with Christ.

V 14 – 17 Security through our son-ship in the family of God.

V 18 – 25 Security through hope of glory in the believer's soul – causing him or her to grieve over sin.

V 26 – 27 Security through the advocacy of the Spirit's help in prayer

V 28 – 34 Security through the golden chain of redemption.

V 35 - 39 Security through impossibility of separation from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

General observations:

How valuable is the gospel doctrine of security to the believer?

Ans: This can only be answered in the torment of being denied assurance of salvation.

How important is this doctrine to the scheme of covenant of grace?

What other Bible passages confirm this doctrine of the believer's security?

John 10:28,

Phil. 1:6,

Phil. 2:13,

2Tim. 1:12,

Jude 24,

1Peter 1:1-5.

How does the believer's security affect his prayer life and worship of the Lord?