

The Verdict Is In

ROMANS 8:1-17

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

↕ Jesus has freed you from **ALL CONDEMNATION** (v. 1-4)

a new verdict v. 1 John 5:24, Romans 5:1; 8:33-34, 2 Cor 5:21, Col 2:13-14

a new freedom v. 2-4 John 8:36, Rom 6, Galatians 5:1, 1 Peter 2:16; Psalm 32:1-2

and you are now **INDWELT** by the Holy Spirit, (v. 5-11)

the flesh leads to death v. 5-8 Rom 6:21, 23; 7:5; ; Gal 5:19-21; James 1:14-15; Eph 2:1-3; Prov 14:12

the Spirit gives life v. 6, 9-11 John 6:63, 2 Cor 3:6, Gal 6:8, Titus 3:5-6

so live as sons/daughters **LED** by the Spirit. (v. 12-17)

➤ **a new obligation** v. 12-13 Rom 6:12-13, Gal 5:16, 24-25, 1 Cor 6:19-20, Col 3:5

a new identity v. 14-17 Gal 4:4-7, John 1:12, Ephesians 1:5, 1 John 3:1-2

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



Here's a few key terms that are helpful to understanding Romans 8:

CONDEMNATION

This is a legal term meaning a verdict of guilty with its accompanying sentence. In Romans 8:1, Paul says there is none of this for those in Christ. Not just that the charges are dropped, but that the sentence has been fully served! Jesus took the condemnation so you don't have to.

FLESH

Paul uses the Greek word *sarx* here, which can simply mean the physical body, but in Romans he uses it to describe human nature as it is *oriented away from God*. It is our self-directed, sin-prone existence. The body itself is not evil, but life lived on its own terms, apart from God, leads to death — physical and spiritual.

MIND/MINDSET

The word Paul uses here (*phronema* in Greek) means more than just thoughts. It's your fundamental orientation, what you are set toward, what governs your desires and decisions. The mindset of the flesh is death; the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. Two words, two entirely different ways of living life.

ABBA

This isn't Paul's favorite band, but a warm, intimate word a child uses with a trusted father. Jesus himself used it in Gethsemane (Mark 14:36). The fact that the Spirit prompts this cry in believers is evidence that our adoption is real. You don't cry "Abba" to a master, only to a father.

HEIR / CO-HEIR

In Roman law an heir was entitled to the full estate of the father. Paul says believers are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ — everything that belongs to Christ by right of his sonship belongs to us by grace of adoption.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

*When you were a kid, what did you think it meant to be a 'good person'?
Where did that idea come from?*

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. 📖 **Read Romans 8:1-17.** Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
2. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." What does it actually mean to live free from condemnation day to day? What tends to make that hard to believe or feel real?
3. 📖 **Read Galatians 4:4-7 and 1 John 3:1-2.** What do these passages add to your understanding of what it means to be adopted as a child of God?
 - How does the image of adoption—with its full legal rights and inheritance—change the way you think about your relationship with God?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 7:21-25 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

¹ Those who **belong** to **Christ Jesus** are no **longer** under God's **sentence**.
² I am now **controlled** by the law of the **Holy Spirit**. That law **gives** me **life** **because** of what **Christ Jesus** has **done**. It has set me **free** from the law of sin that **brings death**.³ The **written** law was **made** weak by our sinful **nature**. But God did what the **written** law could not do. He **made** his Son to be **like** those who have a sinful **nature**. He **sent** him to be an **offering** for sin. In that way, he **judged** sin in his Son's **human body**.⁴ Now we can do everything the law requires. Our sinful **nature** no **longer controls** the way we **live**. The **Holy Spirit** now **controls** the way we **live**.
⁵ Don't **live** under the **control** of your sinful **nature**. If you do, you will **think** about what your sinful **nature wants**. **Live** under the **control** of the **Holy Spirit**. If you do, you will **think** about what the **Spirit wants**.

F F R E E B D G F T L U
 B B L I K E O A B O D Y
 O V D D R W N J E S U S
 H N A T U R E M C A R E
 O S P I R I T D A B Y O
 L I F E G T C E U R P F
 Y L I V E T O A S I Y F
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4. It's hard (if not impossible) to try to live the Christian life on our own strength rather than relying on the Holy Spirit and the power he provides. What do the following verses teach us about relying on the Holy Spirit's power rather than our own?
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Zechariah 4:6. Galatians 2:20**
- Relying on God's power does not mean we give up personal responsibility to make good choices to live the Christian life. How could a person balance relying on God's power while still maintaining personal responsibility?
 - Can you think of any challenges a person could face in trying to tap into God's power to live the Christian life?
5. Life works best when we stay tuned into the Spirit and stop living for the old self (the flesh). What motivations can you find in the following passages to help keep you consistently tuning into the Spirit and not living according to your sinful nature?

Galatians 6:7-8 Hebrews 12:7-11 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

- Which of these do you find most motivating to you? Which is least motivating?

Taking It Home

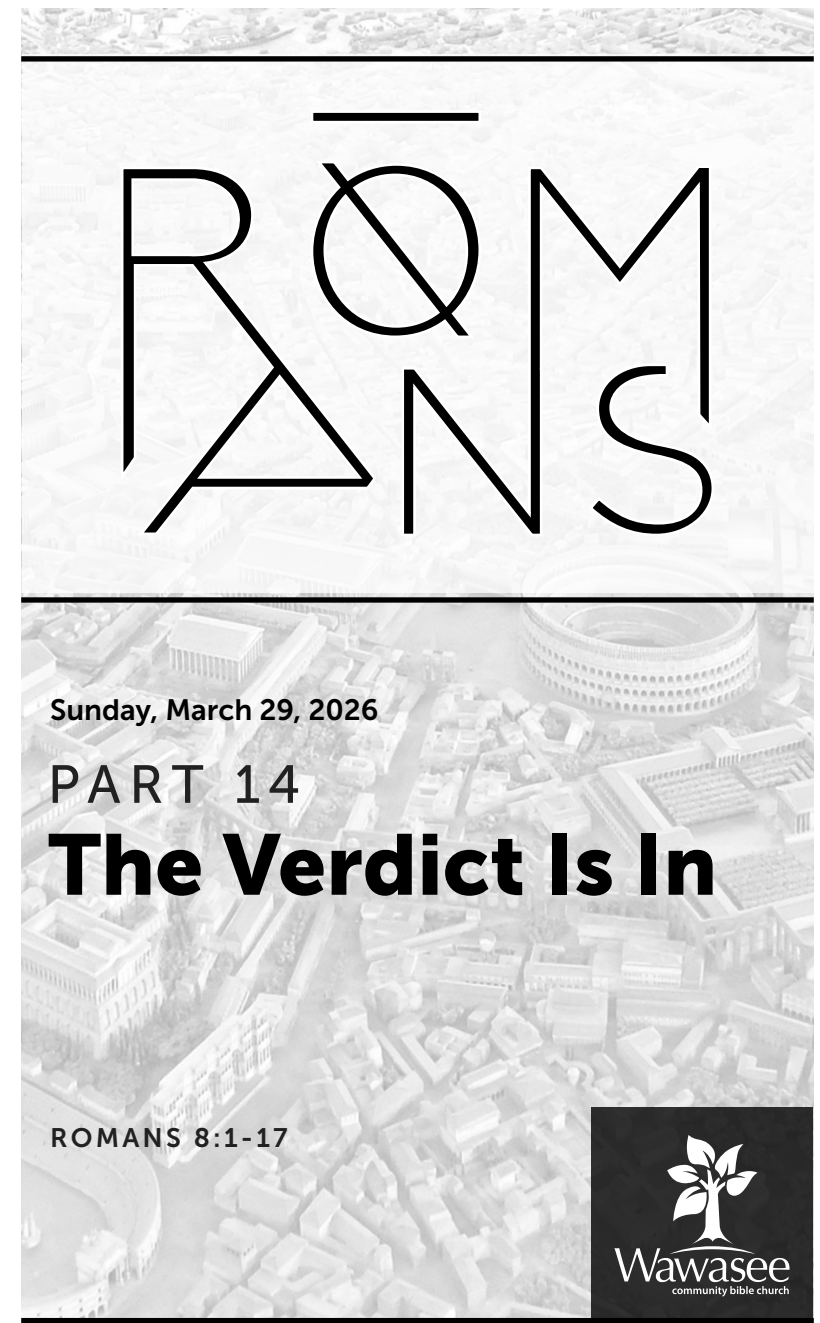
6. One of the roles we're aiming to grow in is that of a **Secure Son/Daughter**. In the passage this week, we saw that real life is found in Christ and as we walk in the Spirit. But Paul also noted that this doesn't exclude us from suffering (v. 17). Life, even the Christian life, is full of high points and hard times. With that in mind... **If the last 30 days of your life were a chapter of your biography, what would you title it?**
- After answering that question, answer this one?
- Now... *what would God title it*—and how are you joining him in what he's doing?

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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PART 14

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<https://wawasee.today>