

S T U D Y G U I D E



R O M A N S



E I G H T

NO CONDEMNATION

D E R E K W . H . T H O M A S

S T U D Y G U I D E

Romans 8

Derek W.H. Thomas



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

Renew your Mind.

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Introduction

Opening with the bold declaration that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8 is a source of great comfort for every Christian. From beginning to end, it reminds us that nothing can separate the children of God from His love. In this twelve-part teaching series, Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas exegetes this stunning passage of Scripture verse by verse and explains why he considers it to be the greatest chapter in the entire Bible.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	<p>The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind you of what you have already covered and where you are headed.</p>
LEARNING GOALS	<p>The learning goals are the knowledge and skills the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.</p> <p>How to use: Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging with its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.</p>
KEY IDEAS	<p>The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge each lecture is communicating.</p>
REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that are intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.</p> <p>How to use: Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The timestamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.</p>

PRAYER	<p>The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.</p> <p>How to use: Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org.</p>
REVIEW QUIZ	<p>The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson.</p> <p>How to use: Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.</p>
ANSWER KEY	<p>The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.</p> <p>How to use: Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.</p>

Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Romans 8* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	Extended 14-Week Plan	Standard 12-Week Plan	Abbreviated 6-Week Plan	Intensive 4-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1	1– 3
2	1	2	2 & 3	4 –6
3	2	3	4 & 5	7 –9
4	3	4	6 & 7	10– 12
5	4	5	8 & 9	
6	5	6	10 & 11	
7	6	7	12	
8	7	8		
9	8	9		
10	9	10		
11	10	11		
12	11	12		
13	12			
14	*			

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

No Condemnation

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary Western culture, it has become commonplace to think of Christianity as restrictive, harsh, or judgmental in nature. Those who believe this have sadly misunderstood the central theme of the Christian faith: the forgiveness of sins as freely offered to sinners because of what Jesus Christ has accomplished. In this lesson, Dr. Thomas explores one of the pivotal motifs of Romans 8, the reality that there is no condemnation for sinners who place their hope in Jesus Christ.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Summarize some of the major themes in the book of Romans
- Describe specific ways the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work in the lives of believers

KEY IDEAS

- Although we fail to live up to God's standards in ourselves, there is no condemnation for those who place their faith in Jesus Christ.
- The gospel is Trinitarian in origin and shape, involving all three persons of the Trinity.
- The power of the Holy Spirit enables believers to experience true freedom.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- When you think of Romans 8, what specific verses, if any, come to mind?
- How would you explain the gospel message to another person?

Scripture Reading

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

—Romans 8:1–4

- According to these verses, why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Romans 8 in Context

0:00–10:17

- What theme begins Romans 8 and what theme ends Romans 8?
- According to Romans 3, who has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?
- Which Old Testament figures does Paul reference in Romans 4 and 5? How do they fit into God's story of redemption?
- What does Paul say about the residual power of sin in his life in Romans 7?

The Trinitarian Rescue Mission

10:17–26:17

- Which hymns does Dr. Thomas mention as examples of the scriptural reality that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ?

- What did the ancient heresy known as Docetism teach about the human nature of Jesus?
- According to Romans 8:4, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the Christian life?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Why does Dr. Thomas consider Romans 8 to be the greatest chapter in the Bible? Do you agree or disagree with this claim? Why or why not?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss their answers to the above questions. What other passages of the Bible do you consider to be particularly striking or helpful in explaining the realities of the gospel?

- What role did Paul wish for Rome to play in the spread of the gospel?

If you are in a group, have the members answer the following question. How has God positioned and equipped your church, small group, Sunday school class, or family to advance His mission in the world?

- Dr. Thomas describes Romans 8:1–4 as thoroughly Trinitarian. Referencing these verses, what role does each person of the Trinity play in your salvation?

If you are in a group, have each member discuss their awareness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit's work in his or her life. Which person of the Trinity is easiest for you to relate to? With which person do you struggle most to interact?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for the majesty of His unfailing love displayed in the drama of redemption.
- Confess ways that you may struggle with guilt, doubt, or insecurity about your salvation.
- Thank God for His perfect work as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in saving you.
- Ask God to grant you greater assurance of His love and forgiveness in your life.

REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. In John Bunyan's illustration, what was the man holding a muckrake unable to see?
 - a. The soil beneath his feet
 - b. The crown over his own head
 - c. The road to the Celestial City
 - d. The greater purpose behind his menial labor
2. Paul's great missionary goal was to take the gospel to Rome.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. "So long as Christ remains outside of us, all that He has accomplished is. . . ." What phrase completes this thought from the pen of John Calvin?
 - a. "... ours for the taking."
 - b. "... imputed to our account."
 - c. "... offensive to our depraved minds."
 - d. "... useless and of no value to us."
4. Which of the following best describes the natural reflex of a holy God toward human sin?
 - a. Love
 - b. Forgiveness
 - c. Indifference
 - d. Wrath
5. In the doctrine of double imputation, what is reckoned to Christ's account?
 - a. Divine justice
 - b. Eternal life
 - c. Human sin
 - d. Perfect obedience
6. According to Romans 8:4, for what purpose has God redeemed us?
 - a. So that we might be holy
 - b. So that we can go to heaven when we die
 - c. So that we will merit salvation through our righteousness
 - d. So that we would be free from the law of God

Answer Key—No Condemnation

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

Scripture Reading

- According to these verses, why is there no condemnation for those who are in Christ?

This passage reveals that God has declared sinners to be just on the basis on Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice. The law alone could not justify sinners, but the righteous requirement of the law has been fulfilled for us by Jesus Christ. When we believe in Him, we live according to a new law, the law of the Spirit of life.

During the Video

Romans 8 in Context

- What theme begins Romans 8 and what theme ends Roman 8?

Paul declares in Romans 8:1 that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. In Romans 8:39, he concludes by proclaiming that for these redeemed ones there can be no separation from the love of God. The theme of no condemnation begins Romans 8 and the theme of no separation ends Romans 8.

- According to Romans 3, who has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God?

Paul states in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This truth is foundational to Paul's exposition of the gospel throughout the book of Romans. Since all of humanity is dead in sin, salvation can come from nowhere else but the person and work of Jesus Christ.

- Which Old Testament figures does Paul reference in Romans 4 and 5? How do they fit into God's story of redemption?

In Romans 4, Paul alludes to the Old Testament accounts of Abraham and David as examples of two men who were counted righteous, not on the basis of their works or deeds but on the basis of their faith. In Romans 5, Paul contrasts Jesus with Adam. Just as Adam's sin brought spiritual death to all of humanity, the righteousness of Jesus brings spiritual life to the human race. For this reason, Jesus is described as the second Adam.

- What does Paul say about the residual power of sin in his life in Romans 7?

In Romans 7:14–25, Paul vividly describes the spiritual conflict that he experiences as a redeemed and forgiven man who still possesses a sinful nature. He famously remarks, “I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing” (v. 19). This passage reminds us not only of our need for God’s forgiveness but also of our need to be made holy by the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

The Trinitarian Rescue Mission

- Which hymns does Dr. Thomas mention as examples of the scriptural reality that there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ?

Dr. Thomas first quotes from “Before the Throne of God Above.” This hymn describes the mysterious fact that our sinful souls are counted free; because God’s justice has been satisfied by Christ’s sacrifice, our sins are pardoned. Dr. Thomas also refers to Charles Wesley’s “And Can It Be?,” which includes the line “No condemnation now I dread.”

- What did the ancient heresy known as Docetism teach about the human nature of Jesus?

The Docetists committed the theological error of denying the reality of Christ’s incarnation. Against orthodox claims that Jesus was fully human and fully divine, the Docetists taught that Jesus merely appeared in human form without truly being human. The Apostle John spoke out against this heretical view in his first epistle.

- According to Romans 8:4, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the Christian life?

In Romans 8:2, Paul states that the Spirit of life has set believers free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:4 reveals the results of this freedom. By the power of the Holy Spirit, believers are set free to live out the law of God. The purpose of this obedience is not to merit God’s forgiveness but rather to declare that God’s saving work has already taken place in the lives of His people.

After the Video

- Why does Dr. Thomas consider Romans 8 to be the greatest chapter in the Bible? Do you agree or disagree with this claim? Why or why not?

Dr. Thomas is not claiming that some parts of the Bible are more important than others. Instead, he is arguing that some passages, particularly Romans 8, communicate the gospel with unique clarity and power. Individual responses to Dr. Thomas’ position may vary.

- What role did Paul wish for Rome to play in the spread of the gospel?

Paul hoped that Rome could become a base similar to the city of Antioch, from which Christian missionaries could be sent throughout the Roman Empire. He

longed to see the gospel take root in Spain, which represented the distant frontier of the Roman world.

- Dr. Thomas describes Romans 8:1–4 as thoroughly Trinitarian. Referencing these verses, what role does each person of the Trinity play in your salvation?

The gospel as presented in Romans 8 involves the unique work of all three persons of the Trinity. God the Father sent His Son to accomplish redemption and is the just judge who makes the declaration of “no condemnation” for those who are in Christ. God the Son came as our representative and substitute, and through the reality of double imputation, our sin was credited to Him, and His righteousness was credited to us. It is through the power of God the Holy Spirit that the redemption accomplished by Jesus is applied to believers and that they are enabled to live in the freedom of Jesus Christ.

REVIEW QUIZ

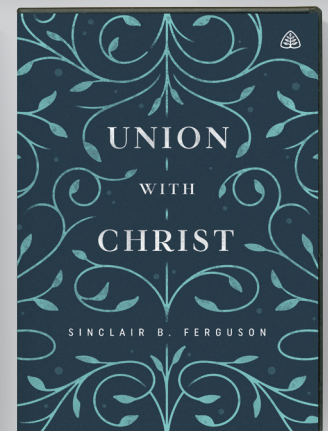
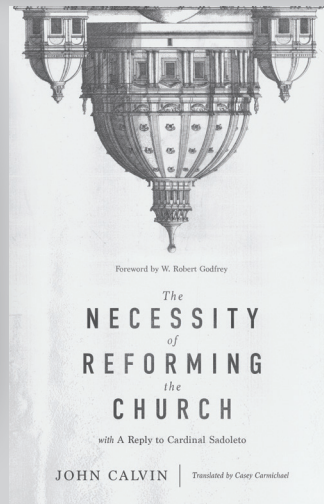
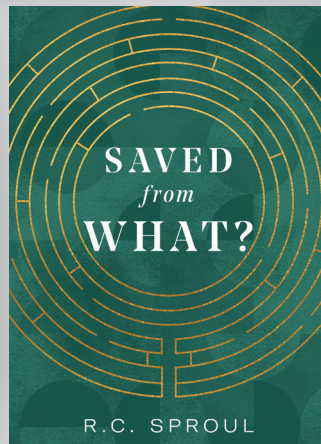
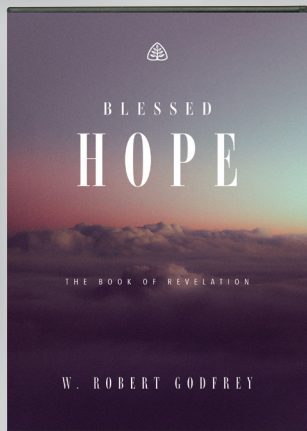
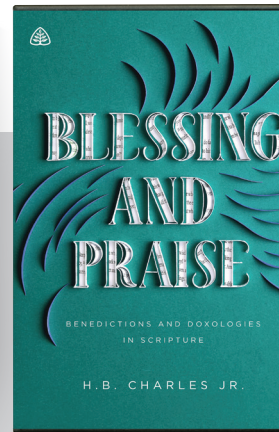
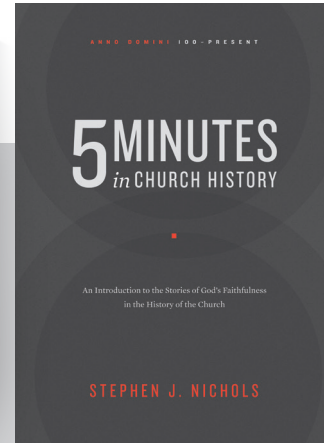
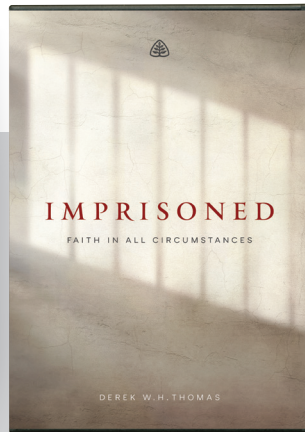
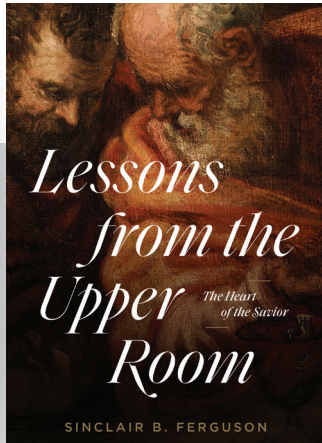
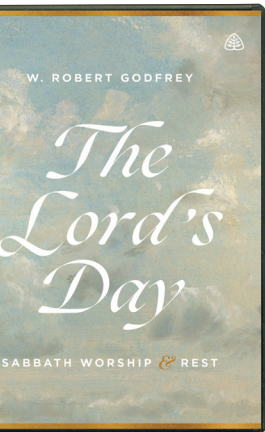
Lesson 1

1. **B.**
The man working with a muckrake was not able to see the crown that was being held over his own head. Fixated on his menial labor, he did not realize that he was a king. In the same way, Christians often struggle to grasp their royal status as children of God.
2. **B.**
Paul desired to use Rome as a strategic base from which to send Christian missionaries to the far reaches of the Roman Empire. Paul’s great ambition was to take the gospel message to Spain.
3. **D.**
Calvin observed that the vast riches of redemption achieve no benefit for sinners who remain separated from Christ. It is only through union with Jesus that fallen people become beneficiaries of the gospel’s promises.
4. **D.**
In His holiness, God cannot look on sin. By nature, human beings are children of wrath. Because Jesus Christ took sin on Himself and His righteousness was credited to those who believe, the requirements of divine justice have been satisfied. All who place their hope in Jesus Christ receive not wrath but forgiveness and grace from God the Father.
5. **C.**
The doctrine of double imputation describes the great exchange that took place between Jesus and sinful humanity. Sin was imputed to Christ, and Christ’s perfect righteousness was imputed to those of the human race who believe in Him.

6. A.

Romans 8:4 states that redemption was accomplished “in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.” This righteous living on the part of Christians is not a prerequisite to God’s grace but is rather a response to it. Thus, this verse teaches that the intended outcome of God’s redemptive work was a redeemed humanity set free to display the holy nature of God through joyful and grateful obedience.

We want to see men and women around the world connect
the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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