

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

JESUS IS YOUR DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Romans 8:34 “Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

God forbid you would ever be put on trial for an alleged crime you have committed. But, if that occasion would ever arise, you would need to hire a defense attorney. If you were not able to afford an attorney, you are guaranteed in United States law that the government willingness provide you with a public defender.

St. Paul, in today's devotional verse, uses legal language such as does our system of justice to ask the question, “Who can condemn you?” He does not have in mind your breaking state or national laws. Rather, his question revolves around your being charged with breaking God's Law, remembering in Romans 6:23 the seriousness of doing so. (Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death. . .”)

When you stand before God as your judge, you are a sinner deserving condemnation. You should be judged guilty of disobeying God's Law. However, you have a defense attorney that ever stands before God and pleads your case. Jesus “. . . is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for (you.)” (Romans 8:34)

What possible defense is Jesus able to offer in your behalf. You are guilty of breaking God's Law. (Romans 3:23) There is no way to sugar coat what you have done. Instead of arguing the good things you have done or giving excuses for the bad things you have done, Jesus holds out His nail pierced hands and shows God His spear pierced scar on His side. His defense is the only one that saves you and causes God to declare you not guilty. Jesus says to His Father, “I died for (place your name here.) He presents God's promise of grace in your behalf, “whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved (declared not guilty.)”

Who then can condemn you? St. Paul writes, “No one!” No one can condemn you because of the faith the Holy Spirit has given you in Jesus. In Jesus you stand before God without sin. He welcomes you into His family with open arms.

Prayer: Jesus, plead for me before Your heavenly Father that He would declare me without sin for your sake. In Your holy name. Amen.

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain:

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain:

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne!
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