



TRANSFORMED

DEVOTIONS CONNECTING TEENS TO CHRIST

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

Romans 8:1-3

Freedom

Have you ever read Abraham Lincoln's famous "Gettysburg Address?" The speech isn't very long. It's only 272 words to be exact. Did you know that Lincoln wasn't even the featured speaker at Gettysburg that day? The featured speaker was a man Edward Everett, who gave a 13,607-word speech that went on for two hours. How much of his speech have you heard? Probably not much.

Everett later told Lincoln, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself to come near to the central idea of the occasion and accomplish in two hours, as you did in two minutes." Everett recognized that Lincoln's message was powerful and to the point. God's message in the opening verse of Romans 8 is powerful and to the point. In fact, he captures the message of our freedom in two words.

God did!

"God did what?" you might ask. God did what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature. Think about that. Let's say that you were running for your life from a hungry grizzly bear. As you tried to get away from the bear, you ran to the edge of a canyon that was at least a mile deep and a mile wide. Just then you noticed a sign that said, "Jump across and you will live."

There's just one problem. No matter how strong your legs are or how good your long-jumping skills might be, you'll never make it across the canyon. God's law is like that sign. It powerfully shows us what God requires of us and it shows us the path of life. The problem is, we have a weak, sinful nature and lack the power to do what God's law demands.

But what we were weak and powerless to do, God did! God did everything necessary to make you his perfect and holy child in Jesus. What you couldn't do, God did. He sent Jesus to do what we couldn't and to forgive each and every one of our sins. Rejoice in God's powerful and pointed message to you in just two words—God did!

Jesus, assure me each day that there is no condemnation for those with faith in you. Help me to live in that freedom of what you did for me now and always. Amen.