



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Carnally Minded or Spiritually Minded?

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Bob Bradley

Romans 8. It is a very familiar story. It is a very familiar thought. We hear it quoted a lot. I don't know that we think much about how much and how much significance there is in some of these verses. However, probably these verses that I am going to read to you tonight is probably some of the most important scriptures that you will read in the Bible. It deals with some things that we need to deal with and that we combat in our lives about every day and probably sometimes many hours of every day. It tells us some things here about our mind. That is what I want to talk about tonight.

Our mind is a wonderful thing. The mind that God has given us and put within us is an absolutely—I don't know what the word is that I could use to describe it—but it is something that is beyond man's comprehension. When you look, if you just look at a picture, or an x-ray of our mind and how it works; it is an absolutely fantastic thing that God has created and put within us. We can think something here, and it makes our fingers move, or our leg move, or to be able to speak or talk, or to be able to eat or to drink, or whatever. That all begins in our mind. There are many things about our mind that we don't understand sometimes, a lot of things that we allow our mind to get on that we should let alone. There are a lot of things that our minds, we roll around in there that we should just stay away from. But that is what I want to talk about tonight, the Lord being our helper just for a few moments. The book of Romans, chapter 8, starting in verse 1.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

Paul is writing to the church at Rome. He spoke about a lot of great things here. You know, the book of Romans is a book about faith, justification, grace. It is a book that talks about law, and about grace and about all kinds of different things there. It is a book about being justified by faith, among other topics that are here.

In chapter 8 he makes the statement...

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

He is speaking here to people who have been born again. He is speaking to people that have been saved and born again. He wants them to understand that there is now no condemnation. He is going to tell them why there is no condemnation. There are many things that we don't think about too much sometimes. Condemnation is a word, when you look it up means that someone is doomed. When we say someone has been condemned, someone has been condemned to die then it is talking about someone that has been doomed. It is talking about someone that has been damned.

He uses the word—he says...

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Again, he is talking to people who have been saved, born again. He is letting us know and letting these people know that they are no longer doomed or damned like they once were. They were sinners like you and I were sinners. They lived the kind of life that you and I lived. They did all kinds of stuff. They did what the world did. Since they have been saved, now the condemnation that was once upon their life, is gone.

Aren't you glad that we were once, we were under the penalty of death that we were going to die in our sins, but something happened. Something happened. We are no longer under condemnation.

Get this. That is only good for those people that are genuine born-again people of God. That is not talking about church members. That is not talking about just religious people. There is no condemnation now. If we are believer, a genuine believer, there is no condemnation. That should make us happy every day to wake up and to be able to know, "Hey, I am not on my way to hell anymore. I am not on my way to a lake of fire anymore." There is a reason for that.

Something happened. He says...

Romans 8:1 *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

"To them..." speaking about a particular group that "are in Christ Jesus." He did not say those that belong to the church. He did not say those that have been baptized. Paul could have used all kinds of different words there. Do you know what he is saying? He is saying those that are in Christ Jesus are no longer condemned. They are no longer under the penalty of death. They are no longer facing the judgment of the lake of fire because they are in Christ Jesus.

Do you know what that means? It means that we have been born again. It means that we have trusted Jesus Christ and He has saved us. He has moved in us—as I read to you here about His presence that dwells within us—since we have His indwelling, since we have taken on His nature then we are no longer condemned. Everybody should say amen to that.

Listen. If you are condemned tonight then you need to get saved. If you are condemned tonight then you need to change how you are living. If you are doing something in life that is condemning you and you know is wrong, then you need to change how you live. People that are living a genuine, born again; we are not condemned tonight. That is great to know. If you don't know that tonight then you need to know that.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

“Which are in Christ Jesus...” means that we have put faith in Jesus Christ. We have asked Him to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us. We have asked Him to forgive us—that is what that means. Now not only have we asked Him, but He has forgiven and we are walking every day, we are patterning our life every day. We are going to walk, we are going to follow Him every day because we are in Christ Jesus.

We can't do that by ourselves. I can't walk this walk by myself and you can't either. When we try, we always mess up. However, if you are in Christ Jesus tonight, you are a genuine born-again believer then there is no condemnation on your life. The penalty of sin and death is gone. We should thank God for that.

That is one of the things that every morning we should wake, every day we should thank God that I am no longer on my way to hell. I am no longer going to suffer the penalty of death because of what You have done. We are in Christ.

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

“Who walk not after the flesh...” we are not walking after the flesh. We are not following the flesh. When it talks about the flesh, it is talking about our old adamic nature, the nature that we have that we were born with. We were born in sin when Adam sinned, when you and I were born, we took on his nature. Therefore, we are sinners. We understand that. He said here...

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

“Who walk not after the flesh...” if we are not walking after the flesh, then we are not condemned. If we are walking after the flesh then we are condemned. If you are following the flesh, if you are walking in this flesh then you are not a genuine believer and you are still yet under condemnation. However, if you are not walking after the flesh, and walking after the spirit then there is no condemnation there.

That should do something for us. That worries me when people that do not know that—that one thing should make us happy. Whether we have any money, whether we have a house, whether we have a car or not, if the condemnation has been gone, that should make us all shout because hell is a real place. It is a real place where real people are going to go and you are going to go there and burn forever and ever. Thank God, there is a way prepared that we don't have to die and spend eternity in a lake of fire.

I couldn't imagine sitting on death row, being condemned to die. The sad thing in our judicial system today—I was watching the news a couple of days ago, that someone 35 years ago had killed a couple of people and they are still yet on death row. There is

something wrong with that situation. If he was guilty 35 years ago, he is still guilty today. He should have been gone a long time ago. Amen!

Condemnation—when condemnation is gone that changes our whole outlook on everything. When Jesus Christ forgave us of our sins and condemnation was gone then that totally changed us from top to bottom. The Bible says that we become brand new creatures in Christ Jesus. It changes our outlook on life. It changes how we think. It changes our mood. We were doomed. We were damned. Now we get to live. We were going to die in hell and now we are going to get to go to heaven. If that doesn't change you then I don't know what will change you. If that does not make you happy then I don't know what would. Amen!

He says here...

Romans 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

There is a law of life. This law is in Jesus Christ because the reason that I and we are not doomed tonight is because the law of life is in Jesus Christ. He is life. Life exists—He is the originator of life. He created life. Everything that has life has been created by Jesus Christ. Amen! Since He is life...

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

When I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, then I took on life. He gave me life. The Spirit of God moved within us and He has moved within you when you were saved and you went from someone that was dead in your trespasses and sins to someone that is alive in Christ. That is because of what Jesus Christ did. The law of life that is in Him. You cannot do that yourself. You can't take medicine to make that happen. We have spiritual life, we have eternal life tonight because of Jesus Christ. There is no other reason.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

See, the law could not give us life. The ten commandments, as great as it was; it came right from the mouth of Almighty God. He spoke those words unto Moses and Moses wrote them down. However, there was nothing in the law that could give life. If you broke the law, if you were living under the law and you broke the law; do you know what happened? They killed you. If you broke the law, you were done. There was no provision made under the law for you to live. It was not there. However, here is where things are great. Do you know what the law did? It pointed us and it showed us and

told us that we needed a Savior and that when we break the law, we need a Savior. Do you know what the law does? All the sacrifices and all the things they brought to the priest, day in and day out, week in and week out. They would take the animals and they would inspect. They would cut them in pieces. They would catch the blood. They would offer them on the altar every one of those things pointed to Jesus Christ. There was nothing in the blood of bulls and goats and the sprinkling of the ashes of the heifer that could give us life.

Thank God when Jesus Christ died at Calvary and when He got up from the dead on the third day and He is alive; thank God, we have life tonight because He lives. He has imparted unto us life.

Law can't do that. As great as it was, there was nothing in the Mosaic Law that could give you life. It could show you that you were wrong. It could condemn you and it did that. It showed us that we needed a Savior but it could not save you.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

There was nothing—get this—there was nothing in the law that could transform this flesh. We can bring our sacrifices. We could bring them to the priest. He could inspect them and say the offering is accepted. I am going to give it to God. He could offer and God would accept it. However, that did not transform this flesh. Do you know what? The fellow that brought it when he left was the same guy when he left, as he was when he brought it. Nothing changed. God accepted the offering. We know that on the day of Atonement; we know they would make an offering for their sin and God would stay their sins for a year. However, that did not change flesh not one bit. The one that had offered the offering, the one that had brought the offering...when he left, he felt the same way. Do you know why? Because of the weakness of his flesh.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

The Law could not change you. The Law could not forgive you. The Law could condemn you. That is all it could do. However, God knew that. God knew when He gave the Law that He was giving the Law to point to a time that when His Son would come.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Jesus Christ, when He was born in Bethlehem; He took on the body of flesh. He was acquainted with you and me. He had flesh. He had blood. He had bone. Just like you and I have. He knows what it is to be flesh. He knew all of that. He did not sin like you

and I sin. And His blood was not tainted like our blood is. However, He knows what flesh is all about.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The Bible says here He “condemned sin in the flesh that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us...” Do you know what Jesus did? He came. He took on a body of flesh. He went to a cross. He died there. He overcame the death, hell and the grave.

Listen. We can be righteous today, and we are declared righteous today because of what Jesus did and not what we did. Amen! That is so important for us to know. It is that because of what he has done that we are not doomed and damned. We have been justified, or declared righteous, not because we are good, not because we have anything to offer to God, not that we have anything that God needed. Do you think God needs you?

Do you think the sun is going to come up in the morning if you die tonight? Do you know what happens? The world goes on. Things go on. Generations come and generations go. Things go on.

Listen. I need Him and you need Him. You need Him. If you lay down tonight and you wake up in the morning; you are going to need Him tonight to watch over you. Also, you are going to need Him tomorrow to take care of you. You are going to need Him.

We have been declared righteous. We have been justified and declared righteous because we have said, “Yes Lord, I believe. I know that I am a sinner. I know that You died for me at Calvary. I accept the blood that You shed there for the forgiveness of my sins. Please forgive me.” Do you know what happens when that takes place? We are declared righteous in the sight of Almighty God. Isn't that awesome to think about?

I know a lot of religions want to teach you that you have to do this or that. They want to try to make it real hard. We get people confused. I have said this many times before. I think preachers confuse more people than anybody I know. The thing is that salvation is very simple. We say “Yes” to Jesus Christ. “Please forgive me.” Do you know what He does? He forgives me. Amen! When we are honest and sincere. He does those things.

He says here...

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

He wants to make us understand something there. He wants us to understand something there. We can't walk after the flesh. We can't live after the flesh. We can't follow the flesh and be what God wants us to be. We can't live like the world lives and act like the world lives, and talk like the world does then expect the blessing of God upon our lives. It does not happen.

He says...

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

I have to hurry because I want to get somewhere here.

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

That is pretty plain. Isn't it? Paul says, those that walk after the flesh do what the flesh says. Amen! Listen. We either follow one of two masters. We either follow Jesus Christ and allow Him to be our Master, or we follow satan. He is our master. There are no other masters. There are two of them. One is the devil and One is Jesus. We are following one of them. I know that may upset some people when you say that sometimes, but that is really true. We are following one of the two.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

"For to be carnally minded..." Now Paul told the church at Corinth that they were carnal. Do you remember them talking about that? Now they had been saved. They had been born again. They were very carnal in what they were doing. They had all kinds of issues. They had all kinds of problems going on. They had all kinds of stuff going on. However, they were carnal.

It is a good word. The word *carnal* means this. It means that—let me say it in another way. When I mention being carnally minded, it does not mean that we always focus on bad stuff. Carnally minded people do not always focus on gossip, or they always focus on immorality, or they always focus on—it does not mean that at all. A carnal mind is a mind that is not, and has no foundation as far as, God is concerned. Their mind is always on stuff. It is always on this world. Carnality—it is something that is dying. The Bible says to be carnally minded is death. The reason that when we have a carnal mind and we die is because we put and we become subject to all the things here or that are carnal. It means that we focus not necessarily all the time on immoral, not necessarily we focus on stuff that is violent, not that we focus all the time on gossip, or on spreading discord, or shedding blood. It does not mean that we do that. We have and our thought process is always on something of the world and it is not upon the things of God. God has no basis in our thoughts. We have no foundation of God in our thoughts. When we get there, it is a sad place. Our minds are consumed with worldly stuff and carnality and things that is going to pass away. We don't really give any thought to where we are

going. We don't give any thought to what tomorrow holds and what next week holds, and what next month holds. We have our minds on so much other stuff that we don't ever give it any thought.

Today, I thought about that today, and yesterday and the day before yesterday. I thought about the word *vision*. Some of you read that today. The word *vision* is having the ability to be able to use wisdom and see what the future holds. Many of us do not have vision. Many of us won't look in the future, and look by wisdom. Again, we do not know every detail that is going to happen in life. Do you know what? I can look far enough to know that I am going to die. Wisdom will tell me that I am going to die. Common sense will tell me that I am going to die. Do you know why? Because I look in the mirror every day. When I comb my hair on my head; it is easier to comb anymore. You know. Do you know why? Because we are dying. Wisdom will tell you that you are dying. Wisdom will tell you that you are going to stand before a Holy and Righteous God one day. Wisdom will tell you that. Since that is the case, we should have enough vision to be able to see one day, we are going to stand before a Holy God. Amen!

If we have a carnal mind, we don't ever look at that. I am going to tell you this too. Many times, we never give it a thought—I'm talking about born again people—we never give it a thought of the path that we are on, where it is going to take us to. We never give it a thought. We never stop to think about the path that I am on today, where it is going to take me to tomorrow. Just because I am born again, does not give me a free ride to do whatever I want to do. There are consequences.

Here is the thing you need to remember. Carnal minded, and we become that way sometimes. We get so involved with everything else, with school, with kids, with work, with cars, with money, with ballgames, and all kinds of recreation and all that I want to do; we forget that we don't belong to ourselves anymore. We forget—get this—as a man thinks in his heart; you read that. If you have been reading along with us in our Bible lessons; a few days ago, you read as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. When I think, when all we think about is carnal stuff—listen—when all I think about is just carnal stuff, whatever it is. It may not be bad stuff. However, if that is all that is on my mind, if that is where I spend all of my energy at, all my thought process on; do you know what will become of me? That is what I will do. that will be the most important thing in my life is whatever and it is the most important thing in life. The thing, the person that I spend all my time thinking about and I have a foundation with, and my basis I have got; if it is carnality, if it is this world, if it is just stuff that is going to pass away, if it is just materialism, do you know what I am going to do? All my energy that I have, I am going to focus towards that. That can be very dangerous.

However, if I am spiritually minded, as it says here, if I am spiritually minded and I think about spiritual stuff, and I think about worshiping God, and I think about what I can do for God. What I can do to live my life how God wants me to live and let my life be patterned after the life of Jesus Christ. That does not mean I cannot have fun. It does mean this. I will pattern my life after Him. My mind will be spiritual. I will follow after

those things that are righteous. If I am living the right kind of life, and if I am living a spiritual life; then the spirit that is within me will lead in righteous paths. The spirit of God will never lead you to get drunk. Amen! The spirit of God will never lead you, if you are married, to get you a boyfriend or a girlfriend. Amen! It won't happen. The devil may.

Listen. God gets blamed for a lot of things that God doesn't have anything to do with. Amen! We want to give Him credit for all kinds of stuff sometimes. You had better watch that because that could be blasphemy. Amen! When you are giving God credit for something that God does not have anything to do with that is very sinful; you had better let that alone folks.

Whatever we put our minds upon, whatever we think about; whether it is carnality, or whether it is spiritual things—that is what we are going to spend our time on. If I am thinking about spiritual things, do you know what I want to be? I want to be more spiritual. I want to be more like Christ. I want to live my life more like Him. I want to live my life in a way that I am pleasing to Him. If I am always thinking about carnal things and worldly things—it may be bad things, but it does not have to be bad things to be carnal—but whatever I spend all my time thinking about and whatever is primary in my thought process is what I am going to become. What I think about are those things I am going to work toward. That is where my energy is going to go forth.

If you ever see somebody that is a good athlete; they start young in life and that is all they think about. It does not matter whether it is a runner, or boxer, or whatever it is; they start young in life at 6 to 8 years old. They train every day. They don't think about going to proms. They don't think about going to basketball games. They don't think about doing anything except training. That is all their thought process is. They miss out on so much in life, because they just have their mind focused on the wrong thing.

That happens to a lot of us. We get our minds focused on carnal things and we become carnal. The Bible says here...get this. I did not write this. I did not make this up.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

If all we think about and our minds are on carnality and stuff and materialism and what I can get and what I can gain and what I can do and how big I want my house and I want to get this and I want to get a new car—if that is all you think about, again, there is nothing wrong with any of the stuff, if that is all you think about and you never stop and consider thinking about Christ... We never read His Word. We never spend any time in prayer. Amen! We have all kinds of time for Facebook and passing gossip back and forth. We have all kinds of time for that. We don't have any time to spend alone with God. We don't have any time to read His Word. We don't have any time to think about Him because our minds are so filled with all this other stuff. It is dangerous to have a carnal mind.

However, to have a spiritual life and peace. When we get our thought process changed, then everything about our life will change. Amen! You can be happy if you want to. You can live a happy life. You can live a blessed life. You can live a life of peace.

If you are unsaved, it would be a great time for you to come and make things right with the Lord. He loves you. Jesus died for you. He died so that you can have life and have it more abundantly. He died to give you life. Come. As He speaks, as He calls upon you, why don't you come? Ask God to forgive you. Ask God to cleanse you. You can leave here a brand-new creature in Christ.

Come and pray—