Dear Open Door Family,

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite times of the year. Yes, I enjoy the turkey and especially the dressing and gravy, but I enjoy most the time to be with all my daughters. We enjoy each other's company and we enjoy the Lord Jesus together as a family. Many times during the times we are together we will take time to remember - to think back - on both the good and bad times that we have been through. I have noticed that an interesting thing has happened during these times. The "bad times" have become sweeter as we realize more and more how our Lord Jesus has used some of those difficult things in each of our lives to draw us to Himself. One of the things that we do at our Thanksgiving dinner - normally at the end - is to take a few minutes for each person to share something for which they are thankful to God. So try it; take time to think about it and talk about it this thanksgiving. One of the things I am most grateful for is the Cross of Jesus, the fact that I am NO longer facing God's judgment. Here are some thanksgiving verses and thoughts.

Romans 8:1-2 *(NLT) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. [2] And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.*

Spurgeon painst the vivid picture of what Jesus did at the cross for us: "Behold the hero of Golgotha using his cross as an anvil, and his woes as a hammer, dashing to pieces bundle after bundle of our sins, those poisoned "arrows of the bow;" trampling on every indictment, and destroying every accusation. What glorious blows the mighty Breaker gives with a hammer far more ponderous than the fabled weapon of Thor. How the diabolical darts fly to fragments, …Behold, he draws from its sheath of hellish workmanship the dread sword of Satanic power. He snaps it across his knee, as a man breaks the dry wood of a twig, and casts it into the fire. **No sin of a believer can now be an arrow to mortally to wound him, no condemnation can now be a sword to kill him, for the punishment of our sin was borne by Christ, a full atonement was made for all our iniquities by our blessed Substitute**..." CH Spurgeon (Morning and Evening)

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you that I do not have to fear ANY Condemnation. You have conquered sin and death and reached down and saved me. THANK YOU My Lord and My GOD!

Pastor Mark Kieft
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