

SALT Church

Romans 7:7-13

“From Death to Sanctification”

November 16, 2025

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

David and Cindy

Paul’s goal for us today:

- Paul’s hope for us today is that we will clearly see that the same **Law that condemns us is also good, perfect, and the holy standard of God.**
- Paul wants us to understand the value of knowing the Law.
 - Its value will be found in its role in our **salvation** and in our **sanctification.**
- He wants us to know how sin uses the Law to deceive us.
- Paul also wants to put to rest any argument that would say that the Law, because it condemns, is bad.

Romans 7:7-13

7 Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, “You must not covet.”

- This one verse should be used to destroy how some people evangelize.

- Too often those with good intentions speak of Gods great love through the sacrifice of His Jesus for our sins without ever confronting people about their sins.

We desire to teach people:

Colossians 1:22

²² Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

- *That sounds great!*
- *There is nothing offensive at all*
 - *That's the issue*

Without teaching them:

Colossians 1:21

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.

OR

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

AND

Psalms 92:9

***⁹ Your enemies, Lord, will surely perish;
all evildoers will be scattered.***

What's your point Pastor?

- My point is that we have made God the Father this insecure beggar running from person to person promising to make them a better version of themselves if they will just ask Him into their heart.
 - ***That's not Biblical!***

NO!!!!

- If you have not confessed and repented.
- If you do not and have not felt the weight of your sin.
- If you do not feel any desire for God, His Word, or His people you are lost.
 - ***It does not matter that you have been baptized,***
 - ***you are just a wet sinner without confession, repentance, and complete submission to God the Father through Jesus our King.***

Yea but Pastor the pastor who baptized me said I was saved!

- How would he know?
 - What is the fruit of your life?
 - Are you convicted of your sin?
 - Do you even know that you are living in sin?
 - Do you justify your sin?

Look, I know some in this room may think that I am being hard on you.

- Some may be here for the first time or maybe you have been here several times, and you're thinking *what's wrong with this guy?*
- **THIS IS NO GAME!**
 - Eternity and death are very real.
 - And some of us have been hiding behind religion so long that you are no longer convicted by your sin.
 - **Jesus is not calling you to be religious**, He is calling you to a relationship in which you better be honest with yourself.
 - Admit you're a sinner and confess and repent.

If you think that your religious nature can save you, can I remind you that the fruit of your life will always rat you out.

Listen as Jesus expresses it this way in:

Matthew 7

¹⁵ *"Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. ¹⁶ You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. ¹⁹ So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions.*

But Pastor I'm not pretending to be a prophet.

- *That may be true, but you are producing fruit with your life.*
- Jesus said a good tree cannot produce bad fruit and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit.
 - Why?
 - Because you and I will always be motivated by what is in our heart.
 - Yes, we may be able to fool man, but we will never fool Jesus.

Jesus continues: Matthew 7

²¹ “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ ²³ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Now, did you catch that last sentence?

“Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.”

Pastor I am so confused!

- Didn't you quote Romans 7:4 last week?
 - I DID

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead.

I did.

- **Let me ask you a question:**
 - **Is Jesus talking to Christians or sinners pretending to be Christians?**

There must be more to this Pastor!

- **There is just hold on and we will get there.**

Back to Romans 7

8 But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.

This can be confusing until you realize that Paul is speaking from a non-believer's perspective.

- Think about your life before Christ or before you knew anything about the Word of God.
- You were not convicted of sin because you did not know what sin was.
- Although you didn't know what sin was (because you didn't know the word of God) sin and the law still existed.

○ ***But ignorance is bliss!***

- But the day that you became aware that:

- ***You were an enemy of God***

- ***That there is a Holy standard***, and you were breaking it almost every minute of every day.
 - That is when the battle began.
 - Some reject the truth.
 - Others submit to the truth and confess and repent.
 - Both are now aware and that is where the temptation comes into play.

Romans 7

⁹ At one time I lived without understanding the law.

- This is before Christ.
- Even the great Apostle Paul wasn't born a Christian!

But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, ¹⁰ and I died.

- Now, why did he die?

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death...

- Suddenly Paul became very aware of his sin and who he really is.

So, I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.

- This is the strange paradox for the legalist.
 - Following the Law is supposed to bring life but instead it brings pride, and pride leads to destruction every time!
- Paul thought that he could keep the law and that would give him the peace he needed.

- Instead, the more he learned about the law and its 613 rules the more convicted he became.
 - The less sure he became about his salvation.
 - You see, he thought he could do enough good works to get into heaven.
 - He thought God would love and forgive him based upon his effort to follow the Law.
- *He was deceived.*

¹¹ Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.

- How did sin deceive Paul?
 - He thought that he was good enough to follow the Law.
 - The problem was that he was born a sinner and by the time he discovered the Law it was too late.
 - It was his own pride that led him to believe that he could walk blamelessly.
 - Sin had told him that he was good enough.

¹² But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

- Now, we see the shift in Paul's teaching
- He very careful not to insinuate that the Law is like sin.
- The Law is God's holy standard, it is good, perfect, holy, and it protects.
- And the Law still has its place within the Christians life (more on this later)

Romans 7

13 But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death.

- ***The Law is not the issue,***
 - ***Sin is the issue.***

So, we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

- Such is the deception of the sinner.
 - ***The sinner will often justify sin with the Word of God taken out of context.***
 - **God will not be fooled nor mocked.**

What have we learned today?

- **The Law has its limits.**
 - It is a yoke, meaning it cannot give you life, but it can make you miserable.
 - ***It crushes the sinner, it condemns the sinner, and it exposes the sinner.***
 - This is why it is so important that we evangelize properly.
 - **How can a sinner fully appreciate the glory of God's grace if he doesn't feel the full weight of his sin?**
 - If all the sinner gets is "ask Jesus into your heart" without hearing that they are enemies of God separated by unconfessed sin and pride, how will they ever understand what Jesus has done for them?

- **The Law requires behavior that is opposite of the heart!**

- It asks sinners who love sin, love darkness, love the world and all it has to offer, the flesh, the lust, **to stop loving all of that.**
 - The Law requires sinners to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.
 - To love people as you love yourself.
 - To obey the 10 commandments
 - In short it demands the sinner to do everything that is contrary to their sinful nature.
 - **It calls the sinner to do what the sinner cannot do!**
 - The sinner cannot do these things without Jesus!

- **The Law requires absolute perfection!**

- You cannot satisfy the law by keeping the laws that you like to keep.
 - Break one law and you have broken them all.
- The Law does not care how hard you have tried.
- The Law doesn't care that you have done more good than bad.
 - Why?
 - Because is a reflection of God's holiness.
 - It is perfection and only perfection will be accepted.

- **There is no recovery for the soul of a sinner outside of Jesus Christ.**

- There is no forgiveness without confession and repentance.

- Why?
 - Because the Law promises to punish all sinners eternally in Hell.
 - **The Law offers no salvation through repentance!**
 - **Only Jesus makes that offer**
 - This is why it is so important ***to get the sinner lost*** in the weight and guilt of their sin before we talk about hope.
 - The sinner must understand that there is no hope within themselves only damnation.
 - Once this is understood then we can talk to them about Jesus.
 - Can you see why the “Jesus gets us” movement is so dangerous?
 - Giving people the message of self-esteem and refusing to point out that they are sinners, enemies of God is just leading them to a false religion that has them before the King on judgment day saying Lord, Lord...

What Paul was trying to say and what I am trying to say is simply this:

- **The Law offers no hope at all!!!!**

Pastor, what role does the Law play in the Christians life?

1st we must understand that the Law is not the problem, sin is the problem.

- Jesus was not hung on a cross because He offered Heaven and eternal life.
- Jesus was hung on a cross because ***He pointed out their sin.***

2nd we must understand that although Christians are forgiven, we will continue to struggle with sin until we take our last breath.

- If you want to evaluate your status before our Holy God, it is not your reaction to:
 - God's grace
 - God's love
 - God's mercy
 - **It is your reaction to God's Law meaning your sin.**
 - The Christian lives in the "already but not yet status"
 - We are forgiven but we are not sinless.

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

- ***This is written to the church, to Christians.***
 - Listen, we need daily purification.
 - Did not Jesus teach the disciples to ask for forgiveness as we forgive those who sin against us?

The 1st sign that you are forgiven is that you do not feel good about sin in your life.

- No! ***It is not about perfection***, but it is about progression until you take your 1st breath in Heaven.

3rd The Law cannot save you, it condemns the sinner, but it also plays a major role in the sanctification of the Christian.

- The Law is Holy and good
- It is in the Law that the child of God learns God's holy standard
- It produces humility and crushes pride
- It increases our love for our King and Father
- It makes us more sensitive to the Holy Spirit
- In short it sanctifies us; it makes us more like Jesus.

So, I close with Proverbs 3

Proverbs 3:1-8

***My son, do not forget my teaching,
but keep my commands in your heart,
2for they will prolong your life many years
and bring you peace and prosperity.
3Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
bind them around your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.
4Then you will win favor and a good name
in the sight of God and man.
5Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;***

*⁶in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

*⁷Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil.*

*⁸This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.*