

Because He Lives 6

Delivered From Sin

Romans 7:1-25

Memory Verses: Romans 7:24

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Because Jesus lives; because our savior is alive, we have new life. Everything has changed. Against all hope, we have hope in our risen savior. In place of war with God we've been given peace with God. The Cross has been replaced with an empty grave. Where we were once defined by our sinful nature we are now defined by grace. The old Adam had been replaced with Jesus the Messiah. Where we were once alive to our sinful desires, we have now been crucified with Christ and are risen to new life in Him. Where we were once enslaved to selfish pleasure, we are given a new purpose. Now we are enslaved to Christ... now we are devoted to righteousness.

So why.... if Jesus is risen... if he lives and I live in him... why if I have peace with God do I not have peace with my flesh. Why if I'm dead to sin do I still sin all the time? Why do I still lose my temper, fight the same temptations, think awful things, and feel stuck in the cycles that I thought I had broken? If through the resurrection of Christ I am free from sin, why does sin still feel so close?

As Paul states in **Romans 7:15**, "I don't understand my own actions, for I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate."

Look... if Paul, one of the greatest Christians who ever lived, struggled with sin and did "the very things he hates." Then we have to understand that the struggle with sin will be part of our lives too. Yes, we have peace with God... but not peace with sin. Yes, we have new life in Christ... but we still live in this fallen world. Yes, we are dead to the wages of sin... but not the lure of sin. Not entirely. And so... yes, you have been saved. You no longer need forgiveness... you have it. What you need is understanding and you need reassurance. That's what **Chapter 7** is all about. And it shows us a simple premise... main point this morning is simple... **The Lure of Sin May Remain But Even More Appealing Is The One Who Was Raised**. Today, I want you to see the way sin works in our everyday lives and how Christ's resurrection gives us plenty of motivation to resist it.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see today is that... **The Law Reveals The Sin Which Lies Beneath**. Let's start in **Romans 7:5**. While we were living in the flesh... meaning, before we put our faith in Christ and were

justified. When we were still lost, our sinful passions and desires were at work in us in a different way than they are now. We had no deterrent to sinful temptation and therefore gave in all the time. We were slaves to sin. And that sin bore the fruit of death, because the wages of sin is death. But I want you to notice something here that we haven't really touched on that much.

There is a phrase here, that if not studied, could confuse us. "aroused by the law." So our sinful temptation was "aroused by the law." How? What does that mean? I thought the law was a good thing. Now you are saying the law tempts us to sin? It is explained in verses **7:7-11**. Paul says if the law had not called out sin... then I wouldn't have known what sin was. But as soon as the law called sin "sin," then it produced a desire in me to want to do it. Before the law, the sin lied dead, or was dormant beneath the surface... but then the law brought that sin to the surface and exposed it as we indulged in it.

Look at **vs.11**... it deceived me. What does this sound like? It sounds like Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Look at **Genesis 3:11-13**. Let me make this as simple as possible... Humans have a desire to have what they are told they can't have. Adam and Eve probably would have never even desired the fruit from the tree until God said no. But then Satan said... look at the fruit... God said no... I say yes. And he deceived them, or tricked them into wanting it. Sin is always there in our nature, but until we have a rule to break... we actually don't really really really want to break it. **Selfishness and pleasure are motivations for sin... but according to the word of God... perhaps the biggest motivation for sin is the fact that we are told... don't do that!** It's like a "do not touch" sign in a museum. You weren't even thinking about touching it... but then you saw the sign and you were like... "maybe I want to touch it." Perhaps this is why **1 Corinthians 15:56** says that the power of sin is the law.

Now, does this mean that the law is bad? This is the very question Paul asks in **verse 7**. Is the law sin or sinful? Evil even? By no means! **Verse 12** tells us that the law is holy and good. Okay, so make it make sense. The law is what gives us a desire to sin because the law is the "do not touch" sign that arouses our sinfulness. But the law is good and righteous. Look at **verse 13**. **Sin is the enemy. Not the law. Sin was already there in me... killing me. But my sin was beneath the surface doing damage below in my soul... It was hidden. So the law was necessary... like a detective who discovers the criminal plot... to lure out the sin so show sin to be sin. So we are sinners.. and our sin lies beneath the surface, hidden, until it is lured out by the law. Then it is exposed for what it is... it is apparent. And because it's apparent... it can be treated by the Spirit of Christ.**

Great... so what does that mean for me? It means you know what do to... but you aren't very good at doing it. And it looks like a war. Look how Paul expresses this in **Romans 7:14-23**. Get this... if you are in Christ, you,

like Paul, have a new heart... a “delight for the law in the inner being.” But you still have “the old law making you captive.” You have a new heart and spirit in Christ... but you still have the old sinful flesh, too. And they are at war.

It's like the time we changed our phone over to an internet based system instead of through the phone line. We had a new provider and software.. but the old providers software was still trying to get access... The phone was usable but there was a lot of static and feedback. The phone wasn't dead... but there was a conflict for control of the phone system.

There is a conflict in our souls. But guess what. This is a good thing. I know it doesn't feel like it. I know you, like Paul, are ready to be over it. But the fact that your fighting reveals something very special about you. **The presence of the fight is proof that something new is alive inside of you.** The law is good... it exposes sin. But the law can't get rid of sin. Only the spirit of God given to you through the resurrection of Christ can do that! The fight shows you one very clear thing... the spirit of the living God resides in your chest... and helps you fight. **The Lure of Sin May Remain But Even More Appealing Is The One Who Was Raised.**

The second thing we need to see today is that... **The Resurrection Delivers Me From This Body of Death.** Let's pick it up in **Romans 7:24.** Paul is sick of the fight and he wants to be delivered. Fully delivered from the lure and temptation of sin. And everyone says... Amen! Yes.. me too!

Two things here. We are delivered in two ways. First, we are delivered by Christ's resurrection in the sense that we are no longer slaves to sin. Meaning... we have a choice now. We don't have to obey sin. We can fight it. We aren't fully delivered... but now we have help! **It's like if you were in a heavy war against an enemy and you were about to be overcome... then the choppers started to destroy the enemy as they landed to pick you up. You are delivered... but you are also still firing your rifle as you are being evacuated.** Jesus has made a way of deliverance but you still need to keep firing away at the enemy.

Secondly, we will be delivered eternally. Christ is saving us through sanctification as we war with sin. Christ will save us in glorification at the end of this life. In eternity we will no longer war with sin as sin will ultimately be eradicated along with our body of death.

How? How are we delivered now and will be delivered then? Go back to **Romans 7:1-3.** Paul gives a quick illustration. A spouse is bound by the law in marriage as long as their spouse is alive. But when that spouse passes, then they are free to remarry. In the same way... when the law of Moses is dead to us... we are no longer beholden to the law...

but we can be beholden to another... mainly the one who died and rose for us. Look again at **verse 4-6.** we are released from the law and now we serve in a new way... through the spirit. Remember what we said about the law being responsible for arousing our passions for sin... we say the do not touch sign and decided we had to touch.

Now add **verse 6** to the equation. **If we are released by the law we are now taken captive by Christ. If we have died to captivity with the law now we are enslaved to Christ, and if the law which once aroused us to sin is dead to us... then...Get this... this is huge! Then we are now aroused by something else to be obedient to Christ! What? What arouses us to be obedient to Christ even when we are tempted by sin? What motivates us to live for Jesus instead of our body of death?**

Look at **verse 7:25.** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord.... Look again at **7:4.** We belong to the one who was raised. No like a master... but like a spouse! We are his bride! Do you get it? Yes, the spirit is working for us. And helps us and guides us. But more than that... we are aroused.. motivated... drawn to live for christ simply because we love him! We love him because he first loved us. **The law said you can't... and so we want to sin. Christ says I died and rose for you... and so we want to love him more than we want to sin.** It's like the love of a husband for his bride. Yes there are other women... and they are beautiful... and probably some of them are easily available... and the opportunity is there to be unfaithful... but guess what... He loves his wife too much to mess up. The goodness and love of Christ is a better motivation than the “don't touch sign.” We've been delivered from sin by the love of Christ who rose from the dead and gives us new life! **The Lure of Sin May Remain But Even More Appealing Is The One Who Was Raised.**

Application

So... you want to be delivered from sin? You want to defeat sin in your life? Then stop trusting in the law to fix what only Jesus can. Stop looking at the rules and look at the resurrection! Stop looking at the “don't touch signs” and start looking at the savior. And then stop being surprised by the struggle. The fight doesn't mean you're losing... it means you have new life and new power. Lean into the power of the life of the resurrection of Christ. Because He lives you can win your fight with sin! Stop trying to beat sin with will power... simply rely on resurrection power.

Conclusion

I want you to recognize the picture this morning. We are all drowning in our sins... but Jesus has come to rescue us. If our rescuer is weak we will both be drowned... but Jesus is not weak... he has power of death and the grave. So he takes us in his arms... and leads us to safety. But at the same time, we keep swimming too. The fight goes on as Christ carries us.