

Romans 7:7-13 The Purpose of the Law

Paul now sets off to finally settle the purpose of the Law. The Law was never intended to make you good. It was given to show you that you aren't, and that your sin is far worse than you think. Is that how you have been using God's Law? Is it working?

Topic- The Law

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THE LAW AS:

- Instructor (7)
- Instigator (8a)
- Inquisitor (8b-11)
- Illuminator (12-13)

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The Law as Instructor

"I would not have known sin except through the law."

1 Timothy 1:8-9 — But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, -knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers...

Psalms 19:7 — The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul

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"For I would not have known covetousness[lust] unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.'"

"covetousness"(lust) = epithymia(ἐπιθυμία); desire, craving, longing, often desire for what is forbidden, lust

-“Lust” — the word is neutral in itself, meaning strong desire

Luke 22:15 — Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

-He used the noun and verb form here.

*Thomas Watson- "Water is useful for the sailing of the ship: all the danger is when the water gets into the ship."

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*Francis Xavier- "I have heard thousands of confessions, but never one of covetousness."

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*Hugh Latimer, before Edward VI, 1550

"Take heed and beware of covetousness."

"What and if I should say nothing else these three or four hours... but these words, 'Take heed and beware of covetousness?'"

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THE LAW AS:

Instructor (7)

Instigator (8a)

"But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire."

Romans 7:5 — For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

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"opportunity" = aphormē (ἀφορμή); a place from which a movement or attack is made, a base of operations

How Sin Uses the Law:

-1) It provokes rebellion against authority

-2) It introduces the mind to what was not there

-3) It promotes the objection that God's Law (and therefore God) is unfair

*Augustine stealing pairs- "It was foul, and I loved it."

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3 Statements in 8b-9:

"For apart from the law sin was dead.

-I was alive once without the law,

-but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died."

All Three Statements Are Relative:

-Sin existed before the Law (5:13 "For until the law sin was in the world")

-Paul was born under the Law, so he was never without it. (Phil 3:5)

-And Paul was already "dead" prior to his experience with the Law. (Eph 2:1&5)

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"Sin was dead" = comparatively dead, dormant, unperceived.

"I was alive"

Galatians 1:14 — And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

Philippians 3:6 — ...concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

"When the commandment came" = "hit home"

"Sin revived" = sprang to life, woke to activity

John 15:22 & 24 — "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.... If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father."

"And I died" = All self-confidence, self-satisfaction and self-reliance vanished.

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*MLJ- Spiritual health is never to be judged only in terms of actions, but always in terms of our reaction to God's holiness and to God's law.

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"And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death."

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 — "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life... that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice... for He is your life..."

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“For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.”

Ephesians 4:22 — “that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

Hebrews 3:13 — “but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

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“Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”

CONCLUSION: The Law is

-Holy — the complete opposite of sin

-Just — perfectly fair & equitable.

-Good — promotes the best conceivable life

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“Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not!”

-Is the law bad?

-No way!

“But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”

*Milgram shock/proximity study

Do you believe your sin is exceedingly sinful?

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Luke 18:10-13 — “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. “The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

‘I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’

-I keep the feasts. I only eat Kosher foods. I keep the Sabbath

-I come to church most Sundays. I serve on the worship team. I pray before I eat.

“And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’

How did that second man know he was a sinner?

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1 Samuel 15:23 — For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

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SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Pastor Dan

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“I died”

When did you “die” from sin?

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*D. L. Moody- “Law tells me how crooked I am; grace comes along and straightens me out.”

Galatians 3:24 — Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

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*The Sacrificial System

*Spurgeon- “While others are congratulating themselves, I have to lie humbly at the foot of Christ’s cross, and marvel that I am saved at all.”

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The Law was never intended to make you good. It was given to show you that you aren't, and that your sin is far worse than you think.

-And once it has done its job, we flee to Christ as our Rock, Refuge, & Redeemer.