

Romans 7

Jesus

I. Free from the Law

- **Dead** to the Law v 4 because we were only...
- **Aroused** by the Law v 5 so we had to be...
- **Delivered** from the Law v 6 that we might walk in newness Spirit

Fact: We are no longer bound to the Old Covenant

Are you ready to walk in the Spirit....let go of the Schoolmaster's hand?

1 Or do you not know, [you should know] brethren (for I speak to those who **know the law**), that the law has dominion [lit. rules] over a man as long as he lives? 2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

BC we were married/joined to Law of God written on Stone Tablets. **But...**

- **We died with Christ** We were **let go** from our old boss
- **We raised with Christ** Free to marry our new boss the Spirit of Christ

4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have **become dead to the law** through the **body of Christ**, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that **we should bear fruit to God**.

When Jesus died...we became Dead to the Law

- **IOW's** Wages of breaking the law were paid in full on the cross

Colossians 2:14 ... having wiped out the handwriting of **requirements** that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- **Law** Now views us as dead with Christ: Wages were paid in full on the cross
- **Spirit after** Desires to join w/us/bear kids; i.e., Good Fruit. **Live happily ever**

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

Galatians 2:19 For I through the law **died to the law** that **I might live to God**.

Galatians 5:18 But **if you are led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.

When Jesus died... We became dead *to the Law*
Not moved by it/Not enslaved to it/Not condemned by it

- The Law finished its work by leading us to God
- **Ready to bear Good Fruit;** i.e., good change in our lives and others

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.

- Now unmoved by the Law...
- **Previously so easily moved...**Law said no... Our flesh screamed YES

We were Aroused by the Law

- **Aroused:** to be operative, be at work, put forth power. rt. Active
- **Thrill of Breaking God's Law:** Stinkier the sin the better

James 1:14... each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his **own desires** and **enticed**. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **brings forth death**.

Galatians 5: 19 Now the **works of the flesh** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

6 But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not in the **oldness of the letter**.

2 Corinthians 3:6 ... who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

We have now been Delivered from the Law to Christ Joined to Christ to Bear the Fruit of Righteousness

Galatians 5:22 But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- **Jesus offers New Wine...**

SUMMARY Freed from the Law

Dead to the Law	v 4	because we were only...
Aroused by the Law	v 5	so we had to be...
Delivered from the Law	v 6	that we might now walk in newness Spirit

Galatians 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive **the promise of the Spirit through faith**.

So that we should serve in the **Newness of the Spirit**
Not in the **Oldness of the Letter**

Are you ready to Live in the Spirit... to let go of the Schoolmaster's hand?

- **Q.** How do I walk in the Spirit/Live in the Spirit?
- **A.** Present/Yield bodies to God every morning...Mouth/Ears/Eyes/Hands/Feet/Hearts
- Read His Word ask His Spirit lead us/Empower us. Listen *for* Him/*to* Him/Obey Him
- When we walk in the Spirit things seem to fall into place

We can't try to cram the New Wine of the Spirit of Life into the rigid old ways of dead religion/self-righteousness...We must be born-again!

- Delivered from a Legal Contract/Delivered to a Spiritual Relationship
- **We are no longer bound to the Old Covenant of the Law**

II. Sin's Advantage in the Law

7 What shall we say then? **Is the law sin?**

Are we freed from the Law because the Law is bad?
Is the Perfect Law given by a Perfect God bad?

7b... Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin** except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

- **Some sins are obvious:** Murder, Theft, Adultery
- Other sins we might not realize unless God had written it down

Paul says I was thinking my neighbor's cherry red chariot would look good **in my garage?**

Exodus 20:17 [God wrote...] "You **shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

The Law is not only good but Necessary
Purpose of the Law? Reveal sin to the sinner

- **Before Salvation** God used the Law in our life
- **After Salvation** we are free from the Law...

Law is not for Saints but Sinners

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the **law is good if one uses it lawfully**, 9 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, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine...

God's Law cannot save but only deliver us to the One who can

Moses the Lawgiver could not bring the people to Promised Land; Salvation and the Spirit filled life. Only Joshua [Jesus] could take them over the Jordan. Those that Moses first led died in the wilderness under Moses leadership. Those who followed Joshua made it to the land of milk and honey'. John the Baptist the last of the OT prophets preached the Law that brought people to repentance expressed through water baptism but only Jesus filled with Grace and Truth could bring them over the finish line and take away their sin. NJC]

- **Purpose of the Law?** To condemn sin/convict us/lead us to Christ for Life

Galatians 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept [confined] under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, **we are no longer under a tutor.**

We don't need a Tutor/Teacher...we need a Savior

- **Holy Spirit uses the Law of God to convict the heart of man...**

John 16:8 ... He will convict the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment...**

- I would not have known I was greedy till the law said Do not Covet

8 But sin, taking opportunity **by the commandment**, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.

- **Sin is an opportunist**

1. Law says no... sin says yes. Law says yes...sin says no
2. Natural rebellion against God's command was magnified by the Law

Once God draws a boundary for us, we are immediately enticed to cross that boundary – which is no fault of God or His boundary, but the fault of our sinful hearts. [Guzik]

Apart from the Law sin was dead. I was killing myself and that without a care

9 [Paul says...] I was **alive once without the law**, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to **bring death**. 11 For sin, **taking occasion** by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

Commandment brought Death? Sin deceived me

- When I did not know the Law ... I thought I was alive but killing myself
- When I heard God's Command ... I was aroused to rebel and rebel big
- When I pondered the consequences ... Sin convinced me it would be okay
- When I obeyed sin ... I was **condemned to death**

Sin deceived me...Did God really say that was bad?

Q. Where does sin find opportunity? **A.** When God tells us what is right

Q. Why? **A.** Our natural Adamic response is to rebel and rebel big **Q.** So why give the Law?

A. Without the Law we are still sinners destined for hell. The Law reveals our need for a Savior

The revealed Law of God arouses a sinner's rebellious heart. Yet...
Spirit of God changes that arousal to shame and brings repentance Ch. 8

**So... Is the Law Sin? Certainly Not!
Old Covenant was a Glorious Ministry of Death**

2 Corinthians 3:7 ... but if the **ministry of death, written and engraved on stones,** was **glorious,** so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away & how will the ministry of the **Spirit not be more glorious?**

- **Why Glorious?** God's Perfect Law reveals deadly sin/need of Prince of Life [Acts 3:14]

Hebrews 7:16 [Jesus] has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the **power of an endless life.**

12 Therefore the **law is holy,** and the **commandment holy** and **just and good.**

Psalm 19:7 [David] The **law of the Lord is perfect,** converting [restoring] the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; & The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; & The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. & More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. & Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. & Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. & Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

The Law of the Lord is Holy, Just and Good...We are not
The Law is perfect, restoring, sure, right, pure, enlightening yet...

The Law of God cannot save... but only reveal our need for a Savior

SUMMARY Sin's Advantage in the Law

III. Law Cannot Save from Sin

13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! 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.

- **Established?** The Law is Good. When it is revealed, we notice we are dying. So...

Did the Law bring Death?

No... sin brings death. The law only reveals we are killing ourselves

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

- **Law is Spiritual** God's Spirit is the Spirit of Life and not death
- **Man is Carnal** Mans nature is sinful and the wages of sin is death

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

**Not the Law that causes death it is our sinful nature
IOWs don't blame God just because His law reveals your sin. Thank God**

- **Paul's AD struggle...**

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

WAR: If I am crucified with Christ...dead to sin...why do I still sin?

- Man was created by God in the Image of God

Genesis 1:26 ...God said, "Let Us make man in **Our image**, according to **Our likeness**...So God created man in **His own image**; in the **image of God** He created him; male and female He created them.

- Sin

Genesis 5:3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in **his own likeness, after his image**, and named him Seth.

- After sin still image of God now with image of Adam

Genesis 9:6 [Reaffirmed in Noah's day] For in the **image of God He made man**.

**Born Again Believers
Adamic Nature and Nature of God waring within us**

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- **Spirit vs Flesh:** The dog we feed is the dog who is winning
- **Paradox:** When we try hard to keep the Law are **feeding the wrong dog**

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

- **Born Again:** Begin to Love what God loves/Hate what God hates. So...
 1. If I'm trying to keep the Law but can't... it proves I agree the Law is good
 2. If I agree the Law is good... Why do I keep doing the things I hate?

Paul has an answer to that question

Why do I keep thinking those thoughts...doing that thing?

17 But now [that I am born again], it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

- **New Me** Spirit of God in me does not sin
- **Old Me** Adam in me still wants to take a bite

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) **nothing good dwells**; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

- Apart from God in me there is nothing good.
- **Q.** How do I know? **A.** The harder I try...the more I fail

If there was any good in me apart from God...I would be able to do good apart from God
Only God is Good. Jesus

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

- I now love what God loves/Hate what God hates because I have His nature
 1. As hard as I try to do the good that both God/I want **...I don't**
 2. As hard as I try to avoid the bad that both God/I want to avoid... **I don't**
- As Paul focuses on the Law as compared to his actions things not looking good

No man knows how bad he is until he has tried to be good. [C.S. Lewis]

So, if I want to do good and don't and don't want to do bad and do...who is to blame?
The sin that dwells within me. Is there any hope? Ch.8

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

I can see evil is present within me?

- **2 Laws:** Lit Than which has been *established* thus far:
 1. I am a man who in my mind wants to do well
 2. I am a man who in my body is captive to sin

24 O wretched man that I am!

- **Wretched:** Lit. Wretched through the exhaustion of hard labor

Greatest of saints are well aware of their own wretchedness

Trying to Keep the Law leave us Desperate

Legalism always brings a person face to face with their own wretchedness, and if they continue in legalism, they will react in one of two ways. Either they will deny their wretchedness and become self-righteous Pharisees, or they will despair because of their wretchedness and give up following after God. [Guzik]

24b... Who will deliver me from this **body of death**?

- **Who?**

1. Not an "it" but a who
2. Not himself but someone else...who will deliver me from this body of death?

An illusion the practice of ancient kings who tormented their prisoners by shackling them to decomposing corpses. Paul longed to be free from the wretched body of death clinging to him.

This is the way we feel when the Holy Spirit begins to draw us to Jesus
No longer aroused by breaking God's law but ashamed/Intense desire to be delivered.

- Come to ourselves as the **Prodigal Son**
- See ourselves for first time in true light/revelation of God's Law

Who will deliver me from this body of Death!!!!?

25 I thank God—through **Jesus Christ our Lord!**

- Who will deliver me from death to life? Jesus Christ our Lord

1 Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who **gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

25b... So then, with the mind **I myself** serve the **law of God**, but with the **flesh the law of sin.**

New nature [real me] desires to serve God...Old me still seeks to serve sin

Q. Who will deliver me from this body of death?

A. I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Revelation 22:12 "And behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." ... **17** And the **Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

At the soon Rapture of the Bride of Christ...

Our bodies will be redeemed/War will be over/We will live happily ever after

SUMMARY Law Cannot Save from Sin but Jesus already has

