

Romans 7 – 10 January 2021

“The Gift Of War”

Introduction

*Paul wrote to the Roman church the greatest document on our salvation that there is

*We've seen our slavery to sin & the benefits of becoming righteous by God's gift of grace thru Jesus

*In chap 6-8 – Paul talks about growing in sanctification in this new life in Christ

*Chap 6 answered the questions how do we now treat God's grace and the Law

God has given us a New Nature by His Holy Spirit

New impulses & desires, new attractions & energy

Our New Nature by the H.S. is called the earnest proving that unhindered eternal life is coming

***Chap 7 today will give us 4 Keys to knowing that we've been gifted this new nature from God**

1st Key to knowing we have a new nature is that we consider ourselves dead to the old nature (Vs 1-6)

Read Vs 1

1. The moment we were physically born, we were born into the dominion of the Law.
2. Our physical life is bound to the Law as long as we have it
3. Vs 2 & 3 will give us an example of this

Read Vs 2-3

1. Marriage is designed for life
2. Anything less is a violation of its very nature

Read Vs 4

1. The Law didn't die, WE DID.
2. So, how do we get out from under the power of the Law...DIE.
3. We need a new nature / spirit b/c we need to die.

Read Vs 5-6

1. The old nature's passions were working toward the fruit of death as we strived to obey perfectly
2. Now we've been delivered from that bondage and have a new spirit to serve God with!
3. The way to life...is to die!
4. Do you believe that your old life is worthless?

2nd Key to knowing we have a new nature is that we've identified our old nature's depravity by the Law (Vs 7-14)

Read Vs 7

1. The Law didn't have to die b/c it's good.
2. We had to die

Read Vs 8

1. The Law brought the knowledge of sin into lite

Read Vs 9-11

1. As a small child we lived free of the knowledge of the law.
2. But once knowledge of right / wrong came, everything changed.
 - a. The Law shouted, "Look at your sin!"
 - b. Sin shouted, "You're heading for death"

3. The innocence of a child is an interesting thing
 - a. Precious that they don't commit evil (just selfishness)
 - b. Scary in that they don't know how to watch out for evil
 - c. When the Law comes, it helps us recognize the evil outside of us...but also within.

Read Vs 12

1. Law is good b/c it showed me err of our ways
2. Have we identified our utter helplessness to be good by using the Law of God?

Read Vs 13-14

1. Is the Law the cause of our death? No, sin is.
2. The Law was the tool used to show sin to us
3. Problem isn't the Law, it's that I'm carnally in my old nature

3rd Key to knowing we have a new nature is that we hate sin even though sometimes we commit it (Vs 15-19)

Read Vs 15-17

1. My own thoughts, words & deeds are the trouble
2. B/c I hate sin that I do, the proves some things
 - a. Proves that the Law is good
 - b. Proves that I have a part of me that is against the evil of sin
 - i. This is the new nature from God
 - ii. It can't be me that hates sin, it's God in me!

Read Vs 18-19

1. My body (flesh) has never been able to accomplish Godly goals
2. I have desire in the mind to do good, but can't
3. We need to despise the things our body would drive us to do.

4th Key to knowing we have a new nature is that there's a war inside us between the old and new natures (Vs 20-25)

Read Vs 20-21

1. The sin I do is from the Old Nature, the flesh
2. “Evil is present w/ me” – The new me isn't evil
3. There now a duality about me. (Two natures)

Read Vs 22-23

1. Notice the 3 parts of us mentioned
 - a. The inward man – the new spirit
 - b. My members – the body
 - c. My mind – the mind or will or soul
2. My flesh, body or members have nothing good
3. So even though I will (in my mind) to do good, my flesh just can't perform it
4. Notice, the new nature of the inward man delights in God
 - a. But my members or body is warring against
 - b. Gaining a new spirit, adds war within!

Read Vs 24

1. The mind is engaged seeing the conflict between body and new spirit
2. While on this earth, we will continue to be entangled with the lusts of this body
3. Don't allow the passions of your body to rule

Read Vs 25

1. Use your mind to choose to serve God
2. Only God can save us from the passion of our temporary flesh.
3. Only Jesus Christ paid our sins off allowing us to be raised with a **NEW LIFE!**
4. Only the Holy Spirit working thru our new nature brings us godly desires and life eternal!

Conclusion

So we've been offered the gift of war b/c we've been offered the gift of new life with a new spirit, now we have a dual nature.

- 1. We need to consider ourselves dead to the old nature**
 - a. In and of ourselves, we cannot be victorious with God...so the only thing to do is die.
 - b. In dying, we know God is willing to give us a new nature with a new life.
- 2. We need to identify our old nature's depravity by using the Law**
 - a. The Law being good can only reveal our lack of being good
- 3. We need to hate sin**
 - a. If you enjoy sin, then that's the old nature talking
 - b. If you hate sin, then that's proof you have a new nature

4. We need to see that the war within us is proof that we have new life from God

- a. Although we sin, is there a mental struggle?
- b. The struggle itself is proof you have a spirit that care about it.

So you've been given the gift of a new nature, which brings war, but that war is temporary. Choose to serve God in your mind.