

# ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

May 19, 2024

## ROMANS KNOW THE TRUTH

SERMON: The Law is Perfect

SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:1-13

SUMMARY: God is perfect. God's law is perfect. The letter of the law is perfect and Jesus said the law would be fulfilled and its purpose accomplished (Matthew 5:17-18). God desires communion with His creation (Romans 5:11, 18). The law was created to show that it is both possible and impossible to be made right with God and have fellowship with Him. Sin is the stealer, the law is the revealer and the Spirit is the healer. It is possible to be made right with God but it is impossible in the flesh apart from a work of the Spirit! The law is perfected in a person only by the working of the Holy Spirit (See Romans 7:5, 14, 24; 8:3, 4, 7). "Romans 7 is a wake-up call to those who think that the Christian life is all sweetness and light. It is a life of victory; but it is a victory won out of conflict" and quite often filled with tension (Holman NT Commentary p. 215).

*"(When considering justification) We have to put away all thinking about the Law and our works, to embrace the mercy of God alone, and to turn our eyes away from ourselves and upon Jesus Christ alone."*

- *John Calvin*

### I. THE LAW IS FOR THE LIVING.

#### ROMANS 7:1-3

1 Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that the law applies only while a person is living? 2 For example, when a

woman marries, the law binds her to her husband as long as he is alive. But if he dies, the laws of marriage no longer apply to her. 3 So while her husband is alive, she would be committing adultery if she married another man. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law and does not commit adultery when she remarries.

#### 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." 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. 9 At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, 10 and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. 11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me. 12 But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good. 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. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

## II. WITH CHRIST YOU DIED TO THE POWER OF THE LAW.

#### ROMANS 7:4

4 So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ.

## III. THE RESULT IS A HARVEST OF GOOD DEEDS.

#### ROMANS 7:4B-5

And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. 5 When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death.

#### IV. SERVE GOD LIVING IN THE SPIRIT. (6-12)

##### ROMANS 7:6

6 But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

##### MATTHEW 5:17-18

17 “Don’t misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.  
18 I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God’s law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

##### MATTHEW 5:43-48

43 “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! 45 In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46 If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.  
48 But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.

- **Be holy for he is holy** (1 Peter 1:15-16, Leviticus 11, 19, 20).
- **Be filled with the Holy Spirit** (Acts 13:52, Ephesians 5:18).

## LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE

1. What is your first memory of the Ten Commandments? What did Paul teach in the first half of Romans 7 about the law (READ Romans 7:1-3, 7-13)? What did Jesus teach in Matthew 5:17-18?
2. Matthew 5-7 is referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. In what ways did Jesus teach a new understanding of the law? How did his explanation and application of the law make it virtually impossible to keep the law?
3. Paul is addressing the Jews in order that they may understand the complete fulfillment of the law is found in Jesus' death, resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit fills the believer, how can one know His presence? Maintain His presence?
4. There have been and are outward signs of the indwelling Spirit in the life of believers. Outward evidences which are God glorifying and not self edifying can likely be traced to the filling of the Holy Spirit (READ Galatians 5:16-26). How would you describe the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? What Scripture would you point to for confirmation the Spirit lives in you (John 7:37-39; 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-8, 13-15)?
5. Since the Law is Perfect, why should we not focus on keeping the Law?
6. How can we serve God every day living in the Spirit? What steps should/can a person take daily? Weekly? Regularly?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit. Surrender to His will and live for His glory. Ask the Lord to surround you with other believers who are filled with the Spirit!