"DELIVERANCE!"
ROMANS Chapter 7

Theme: ***Sin deceives, the Law kills, Christ delivers, the Spirit brings life!***

~ DELIVERANCE IN 3 WAYS:
> SPECIAL DELIVERY #1 – WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW! (v1-6)
> SPECIAL DELIVERY #2 – WE ARE DELIVERED FROM DECEPTION! (7-13)
> SPECIAL DELIVERY #3 – WE ARE DELIVERED BY JESUS CHRIST! (14-25)

> SPECIAL DELIVERY #1 – WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW! (v1-6)
(v1) ***"the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives"*** **– What is the purpose of the law? Romans 5:20-21-** ***Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

(v2-3) Paul uses an illustration on marriage to magnify our Christian relationship to the Law. (*Further insight:* Some people insist that divorce and remarriage is not permitted under any circumstance according to this verse. This is not a complete teaching on marriage; for that we must also read Matthew 5:31-34; 19:1-12; 1 Corinthians chapter 7.)

(v4a) Let us understand the *marriage* illustration - The wife represents the believer in Christ. The second husband represents Christ. We are joined to Him. But who is the first husband? This would be our old sinful nature through Adam. When we became born again our old nature died and we became married to another, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior! The word *dead* in Greek is *thanatoo* which means *to become dead*, *completeness and finality of death*, not by the believer, but by a divine act of God as we place faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 2:19-21- ***For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life, which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."***

(v4b-5) Observe the difference between *"fruit to God" & "fruit to death"* - Jesus said in Luke 6:43-45 - ***"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a***

bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

(v6) The term *"we are delivered from the law"* means *discharged* or *annulled* from the law. Now as a Christian we serve Christ not because we have to, whereas the law whips us to serve God; but rather we serve Him because we love Him, because He first loved us and died for us!

- J. Vernon McGee has little poem that says,
I do not work my soul to save;
That work my Lord hath done.
But I will work like any slave;
For love of God's dear Son.

> SPECIAL DELIVERY #2 – WE ARE DELIVERED FROM DECEPTION! (7-13)
In this section Paul continues to amplify the purpose of the Law and the deceitfulness of sin.

(v7-8) The Law brings the knowledge of sin.
Example: The sin of *Covetousness*, which is the tenth commandment. Most people do not recognize covetousness in their own hearts.

> Let us define COVETOUSNESS: An intense desire to possess something (or someone) that belongs to another person. The *Ten Commandments* prohibit this attitude (Ex 20:17; Deut 5:21). Covetousness springs from a greedy self-centeredness and an arrogant disregard of God's law. The Bible repeatedly warns against this sin (Josh 7:21; Rom 7:7; 2 Peter 2:10).

Many examples of covetousness appear in the Bible: Gehazi's greed (2 Kings 5:20-27), Judas' betrayal of Jesus (Matt 26:14-15), the rich fool (Luke 12:13-21), the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-25), and the deceit of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11).

The apostle Paul labeled this sin as idolatry (Col 3:5). He warned believers not to associate with a covetous brother (1 Cor 5:10-11). The best way to avoid a self-centered, covetous attitude is to "*trust the Lord*" and to face one's responsibilities (Gal 6:7-9; 2 Thess 3:6-15).

To those tempted by "covetousness" and "worthless things" (Ps 119:36), Jesus declares, *"Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses"* (Luke 12:15). (From Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

(v9-10) Warren Wiersbe gives great counsel for all believers, "As the new Christian grows, he comes into contact with various philosophies of the

Christian life. He can read books, attend seminars, listen to studies, and get a great deal of information. If he is not careful, he will start following a human leader and accept his teachings as Law. <u>This practice is a very subtle form of legalism, and it kills spiritual growth. No human teacher can take the place of Christ; no book can take the place of the Bible. Men can give us information, but only the Spirit can give us illumination and help us understand spiritual truths.</u> The Spirit enlightens us and enables us; no human leader can do that."

(v11-13) <u>Paul says that *sin deceives* us</u>! One Christian author writes, "Deceit is one of sin's most subtle and disastrous evils. A person who is deceived into works will see no need of salvation and no reason for trusting in Christ. It is doubtless for that reason that all false religions—including those that claim the name of Christ—in one way or another are built on a deceptive foundation of <u>self-trust and self-effort</u>. <u>Self-righteousness</u> is not righteousness at all but is the worst of sins."

- Once again, Warren Wiersbe writes, "Believers who try to live by rules and regulations discover that their legalistic system only arouses more sin and creates more problems . . . This explains why legalistic Christians and churches do not grow and bear spiritual fruit. <u>They are living by Law, and the Law always kills</u> . . . Men can give us information, but only the Spirit can give us <u>illumination</u> and help us understand spiritual truths. The Spirit enlightens us and <u>enables</u> us; no human leader can do that."

<u>> SPECIAL DELIVERY #3 – WE ARE DELIVERED BY JESUS CHRIST! (14-25)</u>
(v14) The law is spiritual - It illuminates sin within and leads me to the Savior of my soul! (Galatians 3:24-25 - *Therefore the law was our <u>tutor</u> to bring us to <u>Christ</u>, that we might be <u>justified by faith</u>. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

(v15-23) <u>THE WAR WITHIN</u>!
"<u>10 Things We Cannot Do</u>"
1. We cannot sow bad habits and reap a good <u>character</u>.
2. We cannot sow jealousy and hatred and reap <u>love and friendship</u>.
3. We cannot sow wicked thoughts and reap a good <u>life</u>.
4. We cannot sow wrong deeds and live <u>righteously</u>.
5. We cannot sow crime and get <u>away</u> with it.
6. We cannot sow dissipation and reap a <u>healthy</u> body.
7. We cannot sow crooked dealings and <u>succeed</u> indefinitely.
8. We cannot sow self-indulgence and not show it in our <u>face</u>.
9. We cannot sow disloyalty and reap <u>loyalty</u> from others.
10. We cannot sow dishonesty and reap <u>integrity</u>.

(v24-25) *<u>O wretched man that I am</u>!* – This speaks of one exhausted after a battle.
- Jesus our deliverer says in Matthew 11:28-30 - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <u>Take My yoke upon you and learn</u>*

from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- Insight: The word *deliver* in Greek is *Rhuomai* (to set FREE) has the basic idea of rescuing from danger and was used of a soldier going to help and rescue a wounded bother on the battlefield carrying him to safety.

- Ephesians 2:8-10- ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*** **) (Be BLESSED! Skip ahead and read Romans 8:1-2)**

- One author writes, *"Jesus Christ is the noblest One to know, the wisest One to follow, the truest One to trust, the humblest One to serve, the highest One to love!"*