

Romans 7:7~12, part 1

I cannot begin to express how important it is, for the “*follower of Christ*” to understand the truths that Paul is sharing here in Romans 6~7... Whether or not you understand what Paul is saying here, will determine whether or not you will experience the “*life*” that Christ has to offer!

Here we find Paul speaking to his “*Jewish*” brethren...those who “*know*” the Law. The “*Law*” Paul is referring to here is that of the *Mosaic Law*, as outlined in the *Torah*. (...*what we often refer to as the 10 Commandments*).

What we call the 10 Commandments, the Jews refer to as the “*Mosaic Covenant*” that God made with the nation Israel on Mt. Sinai... A “*Covenant*” is a binding agreement between two parties... In our day, we’d be more likely to call it a *legal contract* between two parties. One that governed the merger, and placed upon each party certain responsibilities.

Well, we read in the Torah, how God entered into a “*Covenant*” with the nation Israel ...*based on the conditions* outlined in the *Mosaic Law* that was given through Moses on Mt. Sinai. You might say, these were the *wedding vows*... Over and over in the O.T. writings, Israel is often referred to as the “*WIFE*” of God. Tragically, in most of those, Israel is portrayed as the “*unfaithful wife*...” We see this same analogy in the N.T., with the “*Church*” often being referred to as the “*BRIDE*” of Christ...

That really helps us to understand more fully what Paul is saying here in chapter 7...where he uses the analogy of a “*Marriage*” to help the believers in Rome to understand their “*New Relationship with Christ*”, and where they now stand in their “*Relationship to the Law*...”

I want to remind you, as I did last time, we must not allow our minds to be drawn away from what Paul is teaching here. We must not to let this turn into the matter of DIVORCE, and Re-Marriage. For that subject, one needs to study 1 Corinthians 7, where Paul goes into great detail on the matter, and give very specific instructions. But here, Paul just uses marriage to make his point to his Jewish brethren, those who are under the Law, how they *are bound by the Law to keep it as long as they live!*

The “*subject*” of this passage is the “**DOMINION of the LAW**” on man’s life as long as he lives...right? (Vs 1) ¹*Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he lives?*

The point Paul is making here, is how the woman is “**FREED**” from the “*Dominion of the Law*,” *if her husband dies!*

The Law is powerless over her... Being a “*Widow*”, she is *free to marry again*...

Using this analogy, Paul reminds his fellow Jewish brethren, of their “*covenant relationship*” with God, how that as long as they live, they are “*bound*” to the “*terms & conditions*” of that covenant! That if they break anyone of those terms, the covenant is rendered null and void!

But through Christ death on the cross, we’ve been set free from the Law! Christ took upon himself, the requirements and penalties of the Law that I was under... And when he died, like the husband in the analogy, the Law died. I am no longer under the authority of Law, I have been set free, and now I am free to enter into a “*new covenant*” with God, through the blood of Jesus!

The word “*Testament*...” is a synonym for “*Covenant*” We are a “*New Testament*” Church... Through Christ death on the Cross, the “*Old Covenant*” is passed away, and we have entered into a “*New Covenant*” with God.

(Vs 4~6) ⁴Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even **to him who is raised from the dead**, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

In short, Paul brings the point he is trying to make from the analogy of marriage, as simply says... Our “*Former Spouse*” has died...we are no longer “*Married to the Law*” as it were, but have become “*Married to Christ!*”

The “*Old Covenant*” has passed away...and a “*New covenant*” has come...
As Gentiles, we’ll never know the “*enormity*” of such a statement...

To even suggest such a thing to a Jew would invoke hostility... Why? Because in the eyes of the Jews, Paul was preaching a “*Demonic Doctrine*” from Hell! That sheds some light as to why Paul suffered such persecution for preaching the gospel. We’ve been studying the books of Acts on Wednesday Nights, and over and over, in every town that Paul entered, he would go first to the Jewish synagogue, and preach Christ. And without exception, the Jews would ultimately rise up against him and seek to kill him.

The Jew couldn’t even fathom the thought of such *apostasy!* The Jews did, and still do to this day, consider the *Law of Moses*, the *Mosaic Covenant*, to be the “*sole covenant*” of salvation for man! They saw man’s obedience to the “*Law of Moses*” as what made them “*Right with God!*” As what separates the people of God from the rest of this world! And...I might add, as do many in our churches today... I’m greatly concerned that many churches today are preaching a “*gospel of morality*”... That people still see living a life that brings glory and honor to God is based on keeping the 10 Commandments... But listen to how Paul describes that...

⁵For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring **forth fruit unto death**. ⁶But now we are **delivered from the law**, that **being dead wherein we were held**; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

But when you consider what Paul has been saying about the Law, and the contrast he makes between the two covenants, you realize why they were so mad!

The “*Contrast*” Paul describes between the “*Two Covenants*” are striking... Listen to the terms Paul uses to describe the “*Mosaic Covenant*”...that of “*bondage*”, “*Sin*”, *Death*... In comparison to the “*New Covenant*” with Christ... “*Freedom*”, “*lives that bring glory to God!*” *LIFE!*

Based on some of Paul’s statements, one might misunderstand what Paul is saying!

What does he mean... *we are **delivered from the law**?*

What does he mean... *that **being dead wherein we were held**?*

What is he saying about the Law? Is he saying that the Law is evil?

Looking at some of Paul’s previous statements, one might misunderstand what Paul is saying! Paul associates being “*Set free from sin*” with being “*Set free from the Law...*”

Romans 6 Review... *Our relationship with the Law...*

(Vs 1~7) We are **DEAD** to the Law...

¹⁴For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

¹⁷But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

²⁰For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

²²But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Over and over Paul refers to us as being “*Set free from Sin...*” And he says that based on no longer being “*under the law...*” Look at 6:14 again...

¹⁴*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are **not under the law**, but under grace.*

⁵*For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, **which were by the law**, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. ⁶But now **we are delivered from the law**, that **being dead wherein we were held**; that we should serve in newness of spirit, not in the oldness of the letter.*

Now listen...

Paul “*Clearly*” associates being “*Set free from sin*” with being “*Set free from the Law...*” Is he saying that the Law is the problem? Is the Law Sin?

The question Paul addresses here verse 7...⁷*What shall we say then? Is the law sin?*

God forbid. Once again Paul uses the strongest, negative Greek word in the language to answer. Absolutely Not! There’s not the slightest possibility! This is a “*Pure NO*”, not having even a *hint of yes!*

Matter of fact, Paul says, *he’d never known he had a Sin problem if it hadn’t been for the Law...*

It was the “*Holiness & Righteousness*” of the Law that **manifested** his “*Sinful heart!*”

^{7b}*...Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.*

If we really understand what Paul is saying here, we’d be utterly amazed...The Law of God is so “*Holy & So Righteous*”, that when it enters into the ears of men, and makes it’s way down into the heart, the *glory* that radiates from the Law *illuminates* the *hidden sins* of man! Paul declares that not only does the Law condemn the “*Outward Actions*” of men, but also the “*Inward Attitude*” of the hearts of man!

Like a *bright shining light*, that goes deep below the surface, down into the crevices of the human heart and shines its light on our hearts, helping us see our unrighteousness. Revealing the things that *we cannot see with the human eye...*the unholy and unrighteous *thoughts* and *desires* that lie way below the surface.

Wiersbe... The Law is a *mirror* that reveals the “*inner man*” and shows us how dirty he is...

Paul wants to make it perfectly clear...The problem is not with the Law...The problem is with us!

In NO WAY is the Law sin...

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

Paul says, I thank God for the Law, if it had not been for the Holy Law of God, he'd never know his need for Christ! If the Law hadn't been so just and good and holy...he too might have thought that his righteousness, that came as a result of obedience to the Law, was sufficient to save him... But God used the Law to reveal to him, how wicked and evil his heart was! Moving from the "*outward actions*" that he held too to justify him before God, and the Law went "*Inward*" revealing the thoughts and desires of his heart! Thus declaring him just as guilty as those who have committed physical acts breaking the Law, and just as guilty as the Gentiles, who have nothing to do with the Law!

But when the Law condemned him...is when he realized his need of God's Grace... The Law opened his eyes to what the Cross is all about! Christ took upon himself, my sins, the punishment and penalty of the Law! Now, through Christ death, I have died to the Law...through the precious blood of Christ, I have entered into a *new covenant* with God...