

Lesson 10 – The Book of Romans

Just a bit of review, Chapter 1 we dealt with the Pagan man – we then dealt with the **moral man** and then the **religious man**.

All three are lost - *Creation is sufficient to convict the pagan man, the moral man is convicted because his morality does not meet the sufficient standards of God and the religious man came up short because of His inability to keep the rules laws etc.*

Paul uses the Jews to highlight the religious man and how he can't measure up

Religion as we noted is man's attempt to reconcile himself to God. Can't work

All three of these men can't reconcile himself to God.

God's greatest problem is how can he reconcile Himself – a Holy Just God,- to sinful man.

In **chapter 5** we dealt with man's highest move toward maturity. This is the issue of **hope** in his life.

In the last teaching we dealt with the issue of **Justification** – which is how man is freed from the penalty of sin. Declared righteous.

We will now look at the issue of **sanctification**.

Justification separates us from the penalty of sin - **Sanctification** separates us from the power of sin.

Not only did God free us from the penalty of sin – by taking that penalty upon Himself, He is now in the process of taking us from the bondage of Sin. Thus **sanctification**.

This is a moment-by-moment decision. Sin no longer has to control our lives. Do we still sin? Absolutely, but the issue of sanctification is ongoing in our lives and is a moment-by-moment occurrence.

Now we will deal with a heavy issue here, so please pay strict attention.

We are living in a time where the truth is no longer an issue. It is not that we occasionally believe a lie, but truth no longer prevails as proper thinking.

The prevalent thinking today is that through education and enlightenment, man is constantly improving – getting better. This is a lie. Beloved, this is not true. There is also a myth out there that man develops in response to his environment. The fundamental nature of man can improve by his environment - Beloved, **not true**.

This whole issue contradicts what scripture says all along about man. Man is not improving; He is falling backward.

Jeremiah 17:9 & following – “man's heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it? The word desperately means incurable.

Nowhere in the entire bible is the heart of man cured. The miracle of regeneration is that we have been given a new heart. This issue we are studying is known as the total depravity of man (A.W. Pink wrote a book about this.).

You do not have to teach a young child to be bad. Just the opposite is true. You teach him not to be bad. Being bad is by design from the beginning.

Just a side note here beloved from **Chapter 3 of Romans** - No man is saved by keeping the law. No man enters a relationship with Jesus Christ through *doing*. The law has mainly one purpose today. It is to bring the believer to the knowledge of **sin**. **Romans 3:20**.

So the Mosaic Law is where many Christians today go for a *pattern for Christian living*. I.e. We are supposed to live according to the 10 commandments. That is the main problem we face in the church today.

Starting now in **Romans 7**, Paul is going to show that the "law" has no claim on the life of the believer today. The law was not written for the Church. The law was given to the Jewish Nation because they had no other guide for behavior.

The law condemns a man to death... It is a 'law of condemnation.'

When Stephen, preaching to the rulers of the day, said: you have received the law by the distribution of angels, and have *not kept the law* – **Acts 7:53** Peter in **Acts 15:10** "why do you test God by putting a yolk on the neck of the disciples that either we nor they are able to bare"? Oh, that our church leaders could hear this today.

In Romans Chapter 6 and verse 14 Paul writes "*For sin shall not have dominion over you for you are not under the law but under grace.*" Another way to say this same thing is that "when you are under the law (any law), sin will have dominion over you.

Did you get that?

Chapter 7 of Romans is an application of that whole issue.

Before we begin with this lesson, I want to ask you a question. Do we understand the difference between a *metaphor* and an *allegory*?

A **metaphor** is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. It is a thing regarded as representative or symbolic of something else, especially something abstract.

An **allegory** is -a story, poem or picture that can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, This hidden meaning is similar to the one described, but is not actually the one described. I.e. It is being used as a substitute for the actual to determine the actual meaning.

From Romans 6 we have been discussing the issue of the Law and its relationship to the believer.

Obviously, the Jews were very familiar with the law and its affect on the life of the individual. Not so much the Gentile

So Paul starts out in **Romans 7** verse one – He says he is speaking to those folks that **know the law** .ie. the Jewish believers in the church.

Paul is telling these folks - speaking to the fellow who lives under the reigers of the law that it has dominion over a man for as long as he lives.

So, practically speaking, how can a man come out from under the problems that the law creates?

Side bar beloved – Have you ever stopped to think of the power several men have over our lives today that have long been dead? Guys like Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, and Sigmund Freud. Their explanation of Evolution is not only wrong, stupid and not true, but is embodied in our educational system

They are also totally involved in the incorrect theory that man is **improving**. If we can just get the environment proper, and the right people in charge this thing will turn around. **Poppycock**. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that this country is headed in the wrong direction at warp speed.

So to answer my question above, “how can a man come out from under the problems that the law creates?”

HE HAS GOT TO **DIE**. He has to die to become free from the law.

So Romans 7:1 “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 is **alive**.”

We must understand here that the believer is now identified with Jesus Christ in His death, and is no longer under the law. (not just the Jew, for Gentile believers were caught up in this also) So....

Starting in verse 2, Paul is using the next verses as an allegory – He is not talking about marriage. Paul will teach on marriage in another set of scripture, Marriage is not the issue here.

We need to see exactly what Paul is saying. He is using the marriage as an allegory to bring forth his point. If she is married and her husband is still alive and she marries another, she is an adulterer. Should her husband die, she is free to marry another without being an adulterer.

Got it?

Paul is saying that “since you died and are in Christ, and are trying to keep the law - which you have been freed from-, it makes you an adulterer. You are dead to the law – period.

You as a believer are either married to Christ, or to the law, but not both.

Paul tells us in **verse 4** that we are dead to the law and married to Christ. Paul told us in chapter 6 that we have died to sin so we have been set free from sin.

The key to the entire book of Romans is that you are free from the law. You and I are dead to the law (even though it was never given to the church in the first place – all believers in Jesus Christ are dead to the law.) The believer has died to the law and is separated from it.

Look again at **verse 2** “for a 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.

She is bound to him (perfect tense) and remains bound to him for as long as he **lives**.

However, should he **die**, she is released from the law of her husband. This too is in the perfect tense and means “has been and stands discharged from the law of marriage.”

She is bound to him by marriage while he lives, and obviously his death frees her from that marriage.

All an allegory beloved. Paul is using the marriage relationship to show how this woman is married to this man, but should he die, she is free from the marriage commitment.

You and I would be under the constraints of the Law unless there was a death. Good news beloved, **there has been a death.** Jesus Christ died to the law and all of its constraints in order for all who believe in Him are also dead in Him to the restraints of the law.

His (Jesus’s) death freed us from any law that could lay claim to us.

Beloved, that is the whole story behind the book of Ruth. Before Boaz could lay claim to her, the first claim to her had to be met, and that claim was the law. Once the law was satisfied, she was free to marry Boaz. (Another story for another time).

So this is the message in **verse 3 of Romans 7**. Once there is the death, then she is **not** an adulteress who is married to another – Jesus Christ

Remember that according to the Mosaic Law, it had no provision for divorce. Thus she is a “type” of the believer. Marriages were arranged, and the woman had no choice. It could be and often was a loveless obligation.

Now in verse 4 we are speaking about the believer as part of the “bride of Christ”

Well then, who would become the adulteresses?

This is a hard saying beloved, but true none the less, it is the man or woman who places themselves under any law. For In Christ, **any law keeper is an adulteress.**

This is the whole key to the book of Romans.....

There you go Tom -meddling again

Jesus said; "I have come that you might have life, and that abundantly."

Romans 7:4 very important verse – "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 you should bear fruit to God"

Pretty simple stuff here beloved if we do not cloud it with platitudes and just read what it says.

So, just as the believer died to sin (Romans 6:2) and so is set free from sin (Romans 6:18&22), so also He died to the law, and is separated and set free from it (Rom 6:14 & Gal 2:19) and a wife is no longer married to a husband when he dies, so a Christian is no longer under the law.

Believers are indeed united to Him as His Bride. **Eph 5:25.**

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty, by which Christ has made you free, and be not entangled again with the yolk of bondage" **Galatians 5:1**

At this point, I am reminded of a man who after giving himself to the Lord Jesus, he came to me and asked me – "pastor, now that I am a Christian, what percentage of my income should I give to the church? I encouraged him to give whatever he felt like giving. He pressed the issue, yes pastor but how much should that be? After a few minutes, I told him – OK give 10%

He felt so relieved, Thanks Tom for setting me straight.

Brother, I replied, I did not set you straight. In fact, I placed you under the bondage of the law. Up until I mentioned 10% you were "free to give whatever was in your heart" Now you are under bondage. That bondage may show up in several ways, ie; you may close up your heart to those in need by declaring "well, I have given to my church" my responsibility is finished, or worse yet close up your heart to all needs that surround you on a daily basis .feeling that your "obligation" has been met. Sad.

Beloved, it is a terrible burden placed upon the church by the leadership to sign pledge cards, and profess certain portions of their giving.

Many church leaders are fearful that the work they have in front of them will not be financed if they do not get a commitment from the folks. Beloved, if God started it, He will finance it without coercion on the part of leadership.

Many pastors are fearful that the money will dry up if they refuse to preach on tithing often.

In 17 ½ years, I never preached a message on tithing. Yet the money was always there for our needs. Thank you Jesus.

As I close out this message, knowing there will be more to come from Romans 7, I would like to ask a simple question. Why is it that the believers want to be under some sort of “rules to live by” or “restrictions in daily living”

Unfortunately, we love the law. We love to be told what to do, what to eat, where to go, what to wear, what to abstain from and participate in.

Why do you suppose that is? Beloved, we use these restrictions to help us determine our “spiritual maturity”. We tend to use it to measure ourselves against others. It is how we feel God measures us up also.

Ever notice that when you release a gold fish into the lake, that it grows into a large fish? It will remain a tiny fish in the bowl on the mantle. Turn it loose, and it grows.

There came a time when we removed the training wheels on our bikes. Oh, we might fall down and scrape our knee, but the wheels restricted our movement and our growth as riders.

We removed the side rails on our kids’ beds knowing that they might fall out of bed, but also knowing that as adults, we don’t live with side rails.

Jesus said that it was through a narrow gate a man goes to get to Him, but once inside you are released into a “broad place”. This broad place enabled you to make mistakes, take wrong turns, do stupid things only to find that He has never left nor forsaken you and is always there to pick you up.

Paul said “if righteousness comes through the law (any law) then Christ died in vain.”

More to follow

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