

Lesson 11 – The Book of Romans

As we tackle this book, it is imperative that we understand the terminology called – **Justification** – which is made positional righteous- declared righteous. and the word **Sanctification** which means to be “set apart”

Thus the problem with speaking about someone being “saved.” That too is conditional and changing. As discussed last time, salvation is 3 tenses in its application. Have been – am being and will be saved.

Regarding justification and sanctification. Justification is “imputed” **into us**. We did nothing to deserve it, it was freely given as we believe the record concerning His Son.

One is positional, the other is experiential.

To be **sanctified is an ongoing term**. Think of the word as being “set apart”

1st Corinthians – the unsaved husband is **sanctified** by the believing wife. He is “set apart by being married to the “justified” wife. Every place you go is sanctified because you are there. That restaurant becomes a sanctified place the moment you arrive.

Got it?

Now to review somewhat, chapter 5 deals with the issue of sin, chapters 6-8 deal with **“how then shall we live?”**

Chapter 6 reminds us that we have been “united with Christ” not only in His death, but in His new life. He died to sin and so did we. He was raised from the dead and because of our union with Him, we too were raised from the dead and we too have died to sin.

We are to consider this to be the case in our lives (reckon it so)

The result of that “being raised from the dead” is that sin no longer has any claim to us. Sin no longer has dominion over us. Completed fact beloved, that we would do well to believe.

Sanctification is then the process whereby we grow through our justification. Once justified, we are becoming sanctified. Justification again is “for us” and sanctification is “in us” Justification declares us to be righteous, sanctification makes us righteous.

Sanctification removes the growth and the power of sin in our lives.

Just a side note here beloved – **Romans 5:20** gives us a real insight into the law (or any law we place upon ourselves) . May I quote – “The law entered that the offence might abound.” To say this another way, the law was given to the people of God (Jews) so that there would be an increase of sin in their lives and they would recognize it, and need Him for deliverance.

Just to be clear, when I say “any law that we place upon ourselves” let me explain with a couple of examples. In my desire to walk worthy of my calling in Christ, it might be easy for me to set parameters in my behavior. Such statements as: “from this day forward, I will no longer allow such and such in my life, or to ensure I am never entangled in the swamp of pornography, I will not allow my eye gate to ever look upon a woman in lust again. I will not dwell on the size of her bust, or the length of her legs or whatever.

Temptation beloved is not sin. The desire to look upon the opposite sex with a gazing eye is not sin. And if I find myself doing that, I thank the lord Jesus for that perfect figure and acknowledge His handiwork and go on with my life. James tells us that “blessed is the man who endures temptation

Without the law, **there was no offense**. With the law “sin was seen everywhere.” God gave the law to them so that they would sin all the more.. What? You ask. It is plain as day beloved – “the law entered that the offence might abound.

However Paul states then that “where sin abounds, grace is in greater supply” -doeth much more abound”

The natural response is then – Well Paul if grace abounds when we sin, should we not sin all the more to allow even more grace to abound?—God Forbid – May it never be was Paul’s response.

Ok, now on to today's lesson from **Chapter 7** of the Book.

So in verse **5 of Chapter 7**, Paul moves from those to whom he speaks, to the personal revelation where he includes himself. “What shall **we** say then..... He includes himself in this. “I would not have known sin except through the law” I.e. This law that was supposed to bring me life, actually slew me”

When I understood what it meant to covet, le; thy shall not covet” something happened in me. I saw all manner of covertness in me I saw all manner of evil desire in me.”

This thing that was supposed to bring life to me, actually revealed in me all manner of sin. WOW – I then died, and knew I needed help.

Finally the real purpose of the law was revealed.to me – Paul said

Without the sign “do not walk on the grass” no one can break the law. When the sign is placed (law) now folks can transgress the lawn. Until the sign (law) there were no law breakers.

The law cannot bring us to a righteous life, it can only demonstrate to us our sinful nature.

If you understand the importance of this passage of scripture, you will understand what most believers have no understanding of.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW OF GOD? Is it to make us behave better, because if it is, **it isn't working**. Actually the law makes things worse. It highlights our missteps.

Throughout the book of Romans you have this theme. The law was given for sin to increase. Without the law, there was no transgression of anything. The point we are to receive from this is that **without help, we can't make it**.

The **letter of the law** depends upon the flesh, The spirit depends upon Gods power. The letter of the law produces unrighteousness and rebellion, **the Spirit** – life and that, more abundantly.

Why was the law given? To reveal what is actually within us. To make us cry out as Paul did, for help.

Never forget beloved, the law is like a **mirror**. It reveals the condition, but has no power to change behavior.

How foolish then for us to put ourselves under any law.

The sin nature in every man cannot be trained, or improved. It has but one end. It must be crucified, it must die. And die it did in our union with Jesus Christ.

The law was given to drive us to become dependent upon God the Holy Spirit to help in our time of need.

So Paul says in Romans 7 vs 7 “I would not have known sin except through the law. I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said “do not covet”.

He then goes on to say “But sin, taking opportunity through commandment (law), produced in me all manner of evil desire. FOR APART FROM THE LAW, SIN WAS DEAD.”

The commandment which was to bring me life, I found to bring me death. FOR SIN TAKING OCCASION BY THE COMMANDMENT, DECEIVED ME AND BY IT KILLED ME.

Anything wrong with the law? Of course not, the problem is with me.

This strange understanding is throughout the book of Romans. The law was given so that sin might increase.

When the law comes, it will reveal to us our sin nature.

The point we are to get from this is that WE BY OUR OWN EFFORTS, CANNOT MAKE IT....

Man through his own efforts, cannot reach God - That beloved is what religion is. Man seeking to reach God through something he is doing, not doing, starting or stopping. Futile efforts and must be stopped immediately if we are to ever grow in Him.

Verse 6 tells us that we have been delivered from the “shackles” of sin, and can now walk in the “newness of life”

The purpose of the removal of the shackles of sin is that we are now “slaves” to righteousness.

Am I communicating with you? Do you understand what Paul is saying here? This is the most freeing set of scriptures you will ever encounter.

The letter of the law depends upon the flesh, the Spirit of the law depends upon God’s power. Big difference.

Again, I must remind us that the sin nature of man cannot be reformed. It cannot be improved or corrected. It had to be removed from us in order for us to receive the “new nature” we get at the new birth.

Don’t make the slip up of trying to return to something you have already been separated from. The sin nature responds to the flesh. The sin nature produces death. The new nature we have received produces life and Godlikeness or godliness.

The law was given to drive us to the despair of “self-effort. The law was given to drive us to be dependent upon the Holy Spirit alone.

How did the law deceive Paul? **By getting him to live for God by his own efforts...**

The law was given to show Paul how helpless he actually is.

Look again at verse 13 of Romans 7 – “but sin, that it might appear sin was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”

Again, the problem is not the law. The problem is me.

Well what does the law – “do not smoke” do not drink, do not dance, do inside of me? It causes all manner of evil desire to arise within me.

The law was given and designed to show the believer his “helplessness”

Our enemy within each of us is that when we hear the law, we silently say “I can do that” only to find that not only can’t you do it, you can’t even stop the desire to do it. Remember that if I even have the desire to do it and so far haven’t done it, I have still broken the law because of the desire of my heart to do it.

Did you get that?

Stop this sort of living beloved. Don’t even go there. Strip yourselves of even thinking about going or not going there. It is a trap. You will surely fail. Paul said it, so don’t quote me.

Now we must understand that there is nothing wrong with the “do not smoke” rule. The problem is not with the rule, the problem is with me.

Paul said the “law is spiritual” but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Notice in verses **14** through **17** Paul is using the first person singular – i- This is my problem. Obviously, it is also true of us, but he is referring to himself. He is using present tense, ie. Continual, it is me that is the problem.

This lesson is a little shorter, but probably one of the most important we can receive. It should be studied, memorized, and understood before we move to the next stage. In the next lesson, we will examine more of the **sanctifying** process as we realize that who we are is not always related to what we do.

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