



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

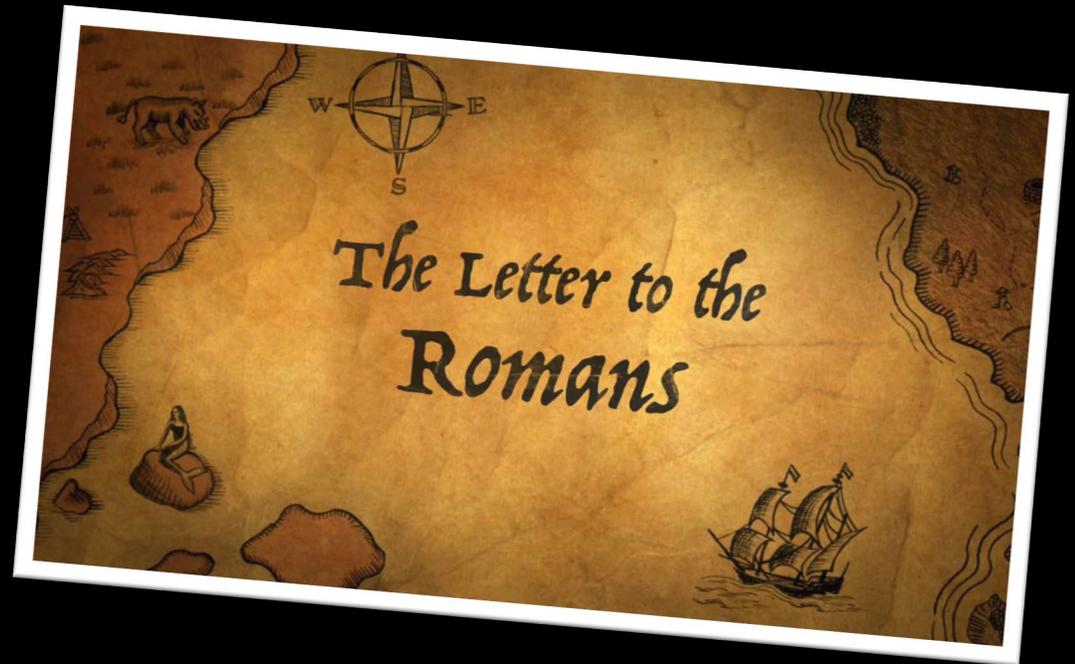
Salvation by Grace Through Faith

SAVED BY GRACE... THROUGH FAITH!

Paul has taught us that...

- All Have Sinned (1:18-3:20).
- We are saved by the grace through our faith in Jesus Christ. (3:21-5:21)
- We are dead to sin and alive to God! (Rm.6)

Now, let's take a closer look at the ugliness of sin.



THE LAW RULES PEOPLE WHO ARE ALIVE

Romans 7:1-3 (CEV)

¹ My friends, you surely understand enough about law to know that **laws only have power over people who are alive.** ² For example, the Law says that a man's wife must remain his wife as long as he lives. But once her husband is dead, she is free ³ to marry someone else. However, if she goes off with another man while her husband is still alive, she is said to be unfaithful.

**DEAD TO
SIN AND
THE LAW**



SIN CORRUPTS!

Romans 7:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, **our sinful passions, aroused by the law**, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.**



SIN USED EVEN THE LAW

Romans 7:7-8 (CEV)

⁷ Does this mean that the Law is sinful? Certainly not! But if it had not been for the Law, I would not have known what sin is really like. For example, I would not have known what it means to want something that belongs to someone else, unless the Law had told me not to do that. ⁸ It was sin that used this command as a way of making me have all kinds of desires. But without the Law, sin is dead.

THE LAW TRIGGERED OUR SINFUL NATURE

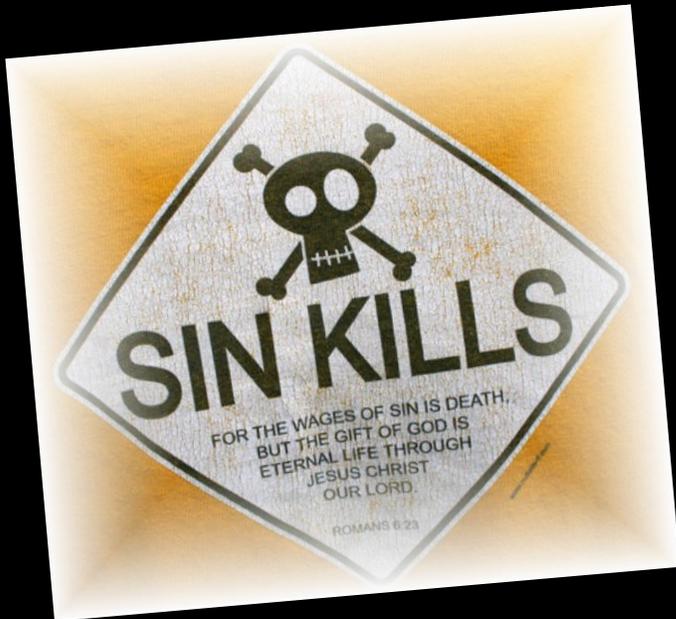
When I see a sign telling me not to do something, all of a sudden, now I want to do it!



SIN IS THE CULPRIT!

Romans 7:9-12 (CEV)

⁹ Before I knew about the Law, I was alive. But as soon as I heard that command, sin came to life, ¹⁰ and I died. The very command that was supposed to bring life to me, instead brought death. ¹¹ **Sin used this command to trick me, and because of it I died.** ¹² Still, **the Law and its commands are holy and correct and good.**



SIN USES EVEN GOOD FOR EVIL

Romans 7:13 (CEV)

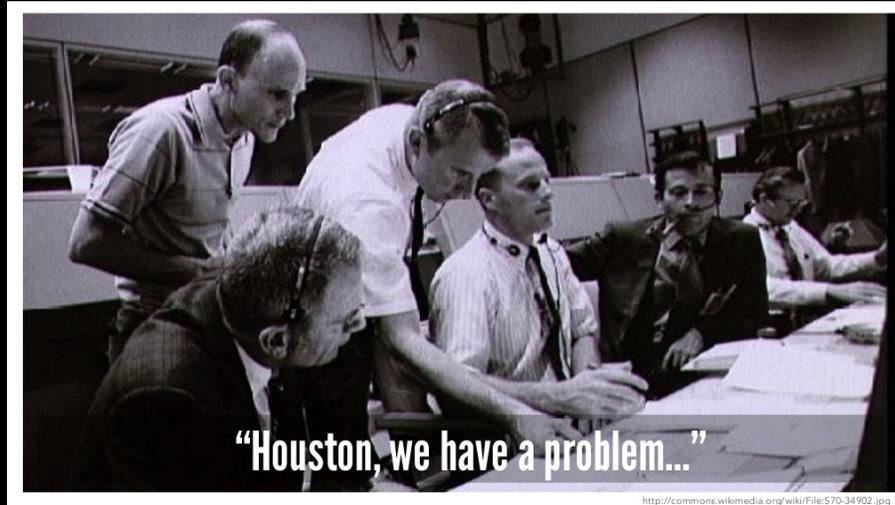
13 Am I saying that something good caused my death? Certainly not! **It was sin that killed me by using something good. Now we can see how terrible and evil sin really is.**

Good Thing	Effect of SIN	Result
Eating	Sin corrupts it	Gluttony
Drinking	Sin corrupts it	Drunkenness
Sex	Sin corrupts it	Adultery Fornication
Self-Worth	Sin corrupts it	Pride
Confidence	Sin corrupts it	Arrogance
Rest	Sin corrupts it	Laziness
Faith	Sin corrupts it	Religion

THE REAL PROBLEM

Romans 7:14 (CEV)
14 We know that the Law is spiritual. But I am merely a human, and I have been sold as a slave to sin.

Our problem is NOT our humanity!
Our problem is our sinfulness!



<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:570-34902.jpg>

IT'S OK TO BE HUMAN!

1 Timothy 2:5 (ESV)

For there is one God, and
there is one mediator
between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus,



Humans will never be angels—we
were never meant to be!

Angels will never be humans—they
were never meant to be!

We are and forever will be distinct
creatures of a wise and loving
Creator.

IT'S NOT OK TO SIN!

Romans 6:14 (ESV)
For **sin** will have
no dominion over
you, since you are
not under law but
under grace.



UNTREATED, SIN EVENTUALLY TAKES OVER

Romans 7:19 (ESV)

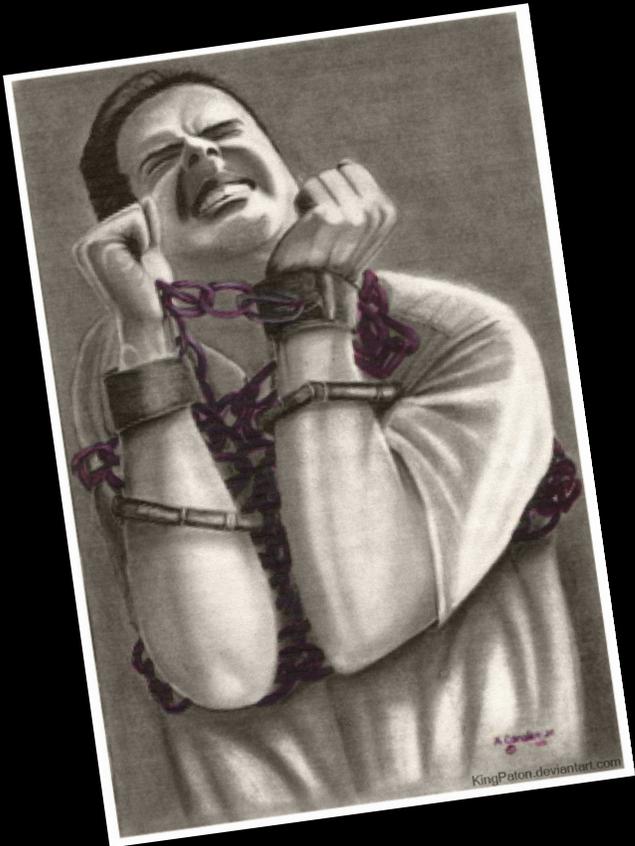
¹⁵ In fact, I don't understand why I act the way I do. I don't do what I know is right. I do the things I hate. ¹⁶ Although I don't do what I know is right, I agree that the Law is good. ¹⁷ So I am not the one doing these evil things. **The sin that lives in me is what does them.**



SIN AT WORK

Sin...

- *take you further than you want to go!*
- *keeps you longer than you want to stay!*
- *costs more than you want to pay!*



THE SLAVERY OF SIN

Romans 7:18-20 (CEV)

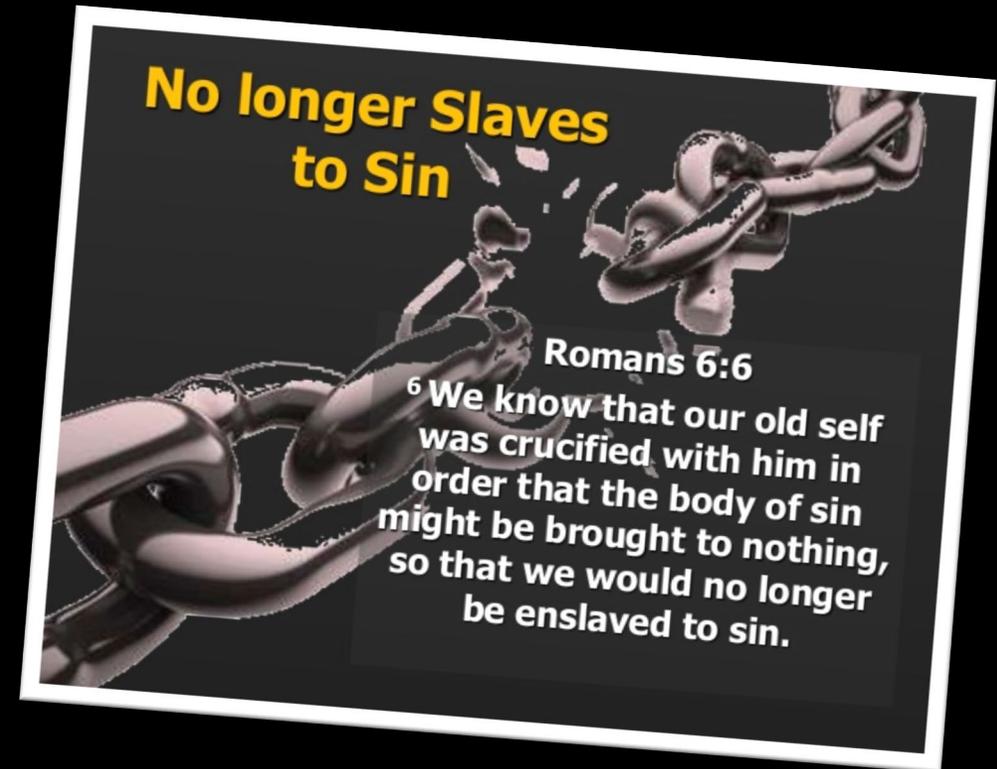
¹⁸ I know that my selfish desires won't let me do anything that is good. Even when I want to do right, I cannot. ¹⁹ Instead of doing what I know is right, I do wrong. ²⁰ And so, if I don't do what I know is right, I am no longer the one doing these evil things. The sin that lives in me is what does them.



A MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGE

Some people misunderstand and misquote Romans 7:18-23, as if Paul was speaking about himself. They say, "See, even Paul couldn't stop sinning," suggesting that we also can't stop sinning.

But if that is what Paul is saying, he is contradicting himself and the rest of Scripture!



A PRISONER OF SIN

Romans 7:21-23 (CEV)

²¹ The Law has shown me that something in me keeps me from doing what I know is right. ²² With my whole heart I agree with the Law of God. ²³ But in every part of me I discover something fighting against my mind, and it makes me **a prisoner of sin** that controls everything I do.



A MISUNDERSTOOD PASSAGE

In Romans 7:18-23, Paul is describing the plight of the unregenerate man—a person who has NOT been born again, the “wretched man” of Rm. 7:24.

The point? Sin corrupts your humanity and makes you miserable!

This picture sets up the question in Rm. 7:24 and the answer in Rm. 7:25-8:1-2.



THE BIG QUESTION

Romans 7:24

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this **body of death**?



Who Will Deliver Me?

THE GLORIOUS ANSWER



Romans 7:25

25 Thank God! Jesus Christ will rescue me.

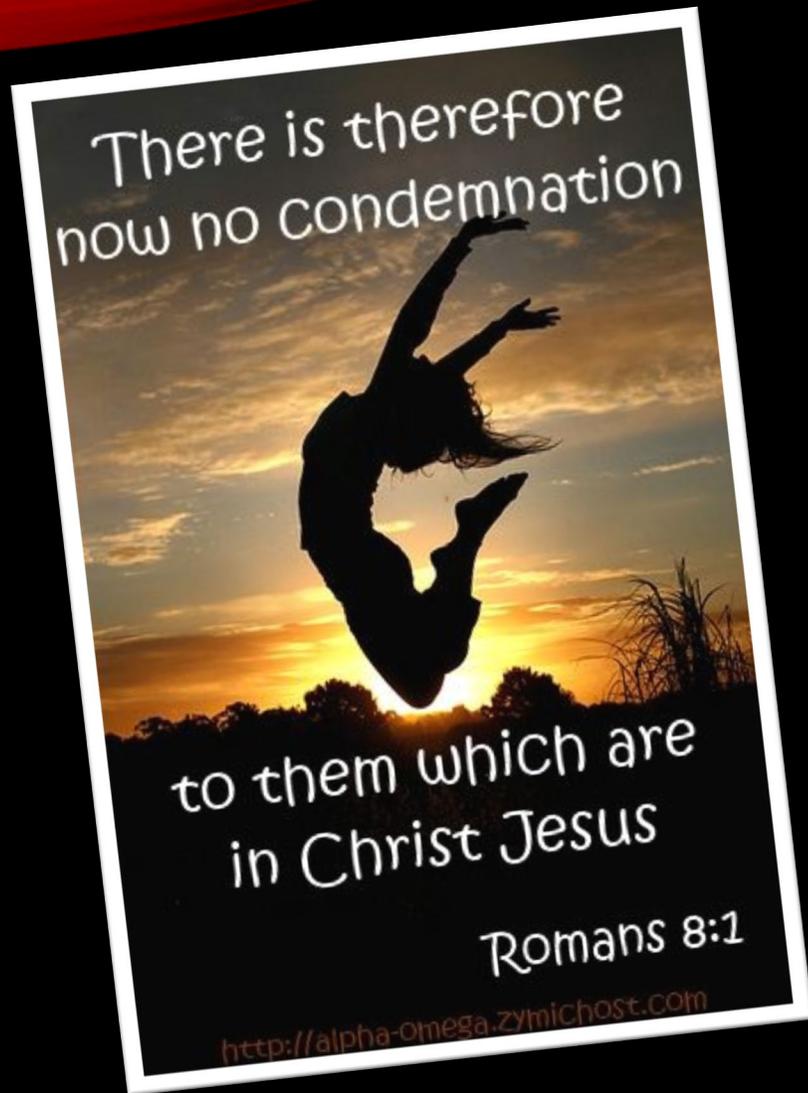
So with my mind I serve the Law of God, although my selfish desires make me serve the law of sin.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

Romans 8:1-2

¹ There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

(And this is the topic for our next sermon...)



RESCUED BY CHRIST!



If you are let Jesus be
your Savior and Lord,
you can be rescued
from sin today!