

November 8, 2025

The Way

The West Valley End-Time Ministries Newsletter

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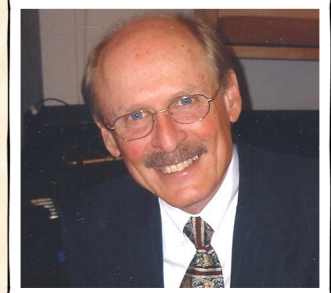
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Romans Chapter 7



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Join Our Weekly Virtual Bible Study

1 & 2 Peter

Every Saturday 2 PM MST

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The mission of
West Valley
Ministries is to
help Christ's
followers
recognize the
signs of His
approaching
return and be
prepared for
that Great Day

Got questions?

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"We are living in the season of Christ's return."



Bible Study

1 Peter 2

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

The Living Stone and the Chosen People

4 As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him – **5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." **7** Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8** and, "A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for. **9** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Living Godly Lives in a Pagan Society

11 Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **12** Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. **13** Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, **14** or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. **15** For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. **16** Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. **17** Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. **18** Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. **19** For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. **20** But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. **21** To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. **22** "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." **23** When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. **24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." **25** For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.



Honest Questions

Honest Question #1: Some new Christians believe that if they keep the Seventh-day Sabbath, they won't be able to earn a living. How can one answer this?

Bible Answer:

"Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:25-33.

Comments: We serve a God who has promised to take care of His own – making sure we have food, clothing, and the necessities of life. I am a witness to His faithfulness during times of desperation. If we honor God in our lives and trust Him to be our Provider, Protector and Providence, we have nothing to fear when we give our lives to Him in obedience to His will for us. One of my favorite texts of Scripture is,

"Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen [those who are Christ's] abandoned or their children begging for bread." Psalm 37:25.

Another favorite is,

"I call [this] to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.'" Lamentations 3:21-24.

The Sabbath is a gift to us from God, and to "keep it holy" as God has commanded will release the resources of heaven to provide any needs incurred as a result of doing so. We are fortunate to live in a nation where religious freedoms still exist. If we are unable, after petitioning God and employer to obtain relief from Sabbath work, we must pray for God's assistance and search for other ways to provide for ourselves and our families. Through our experience of honoring God's holy day, or in giving Him our allegiance in any other ways at a risk to our own safety or security, we will come away from the experience with greater faith in God and a greater confidence in His love and care for us!

Honest Question #2: Paul seems to teach it is possible to be out of the body. So, does this prove that the person is an immaterial spirit disconnected from the body?



Honest Questions

Bible Answer — Text in Question:

“I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago – whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows – such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows – how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” 2 Corinthians 12:2-4.

Comments: The answer to the question above is a definite “no.” The Bible describes the nature of man in many places, but the following text is my favorite: “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and **may your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:23 – **the whole person!**

What Paul is describing by the phrase, “out of the body,” is that he was in vision – taken to a place of consciousness that was outside of his familiar earthly experience. **In vision**, Paul was taken to heaven where he “heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.” He speaks of this as a “vision” or “revelation” in verse 1.

John uses the phrase “in the Spirit” four times in the Book of Revelation to describe the same phenomenon, as he was given **visions** of heavenly places and heard the voice of Christ and other heavenly beings. Thus, one of the reasons for the name of the last book of the Bible – “Revelation.”

The closest thing to the experience of Paul, John, and others that most of us have experienced is that of dreams of the night – some of which are so real we sometimes physically manifest that perceived reality by twitching, talking or yelling in our sleep – even sleep walking! The difference between what Bible writers have experienced and what we experience from our nightly, meaningless dreams, is that God was taking His servants to places in vision to convey to them important messages for His people! For them, their experiences were so real and so divinely constructed that it seemed to them that they had literally left the earthly constraints of their physical bodies – it’s what it **felt** like!

Studies In Romans

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL – A STUDY IN ROMANS

Text and Notes from Our Study of Romans 7

November 5, 2025

Introduction to Romans 7

In the first three chapters of Romans, Paul tells us just how utterly lost we are – something which he goes to great lengths to impress upon us, **before** he introduces us to the gospel in the middle of Romans 3. **We have to know** how desperately and hopelessly condemned to eternal death we are before we are offered the wonderful news of our complete salvation in Jesus Christ – **apart from anything we can ever be or do!**

He uses the same strategy a second time all over again, when he effectively “nails down” how we are justified by faith alone in Romans 3-5. **We have to know** how completely we are justified, set right before a holy God – **apart from anything we can ever be or do!** – **before** he introduces the changes which occur in our lives following our faith union with Christ in chapter 6.

In **Romans 6**, we are told that by virtue of our solidarity with Christ in death, we have been freed from the power of sin – **we died to sin – sin no longer has dominion over us**. Now, because of our solidarity with Christ in His resurrection, we are risen to a new life with new motives. He says, “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection ... [and] so we also should walk in newness of life.”

In **Romans 7**, Paul goes even further, telling us that by virtue of our solidarity with Christ through faith, **we died to the Law – the Law no longer has any dominion over us. Not only does sin no longer have dominion over us, the Law which condemns us no longer has dominion over us**, for all that it requires of us has been fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus!

At the very beginning of chapter 7, Paul uses two illustrations – 1) a **man** who dies, as we did in Christ, no longer is under the dominion of the Law, and 2) a **woman** no longer held by the laws of marriage when her husband dies, is free now to marry another (Christ). In these illustrations, **we are both the man who dies and is freed from the Law and the woman who, because of the death of her husband, is free to marry another (Christ).**

Romans 7

1 “Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that **the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?** **2** For **the woman** who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as

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*long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. 4 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 we should bear fruit to God. 5 For when we were in the flesh, the *sinful passions* which *were aroused by the law* were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. 6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness** of the Spirit and not in the **oldness** of the letter.”*

We must be discharged – released – from the old before we can embrace the new – from the power of sin and from the Law which condemns us because of our sin!

We must say it again! Because of our solidarity with Christ in life, death, burial, and resurrection, we have been delivered from the power of sin **and** from the authority of the Law which condemned us! **Everything is now new in Christ!** We are dead to sin, dead to the Law, and alive to a new life in Christ! **We are a “new creation,”** set free from all that has bound us, and free to live a life increasingly in harmony with the new life that is ours by virtue of our union with Him. **We are discharged from the “old” that we may embrace the “new.”** And we must let go of **all** that represents the past in order to grasp the “so much more” that is now ours in Christ! **And it is so much more!**

- ◇ *“But now we have been **delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by**, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.” Romans 7:6.*
- ◇ *“Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ... written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, **not on tablets of stone [the Ten Commandments] but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart**. ... who also made us sufficient as ministers of **the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life**. But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones [the Ten Commandments], was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, **which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious**? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory.” 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6-9.*
- ◇ *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new**.” 2 Corinthians 5:17.*
- ◇ *“Jesus ... is mediator ... of **the new covenant**, established on better promises. **By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete**; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.” Hebrews 8:6, 13.*
- ◇ *“The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, **we are no longer under a schoolmaster**.” Galatians 3:24, 25.*

Studies In Romans

In the verses which follow, Paul makes it clear that the Law is not bad – it has a clear role in defining what sin is and in condemning the sinner that he/she will be driven to Christ, who has met every demand of the Law upon the sinner – for the sinner!

He also says much about the struggle of the Christian in living out the reality of his solidarity with Christ in light of the fact that the old man (old nature of Adam) still has residence in our flesh and must be contended with. The struggle he describes is not with our sin and our sin nature, still present until Jesus returns. Our struggle is in living in the reality of our death to sin, to the Law which condemns it, and in the reality of the new life that is now ours in Christ! The “old man” died in Christ, but he is like a ghost that keeps showing up to draw us back into our old habits. But over time, as we keep putting him back into his coffin, we realize less of his presence and more of the strength of our new life in Christ!

7 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."*

The Law of God will forever be a definer of sin and a mirror of our wretchedness before faith. Thus, it becomes the instrument which drives us to Christ, to His cross, and to embrace the Gospel which cancels our sin, our guilt and its penalty, and the power of sin over us! “The Law is just and good,” but for the believer, when it has fulfilled its purpose, it no longer has dominion over us. **We must understand this before we see what Paul has in store for us in chapter 8!**

8 *But sin, taking opportunity by **the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.** For apart from the law sin was dead. **9** I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. **10** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. **11** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.*

Further, there is a sense in which the Law is responsible for our sin! It is human nature to want to test the limits of law and its authority over us. When the law says, “Don’t,” our nature says, “Do it.” Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:56, “The strength of sin is the Law.” **We must know that the Law no longer has dominion over us before we can live the new life that is ours in Christ! We must know that we have been delivered from the Law before the Law can be an inspiration for living a life of righteousness!**

12 *Therefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.** **13** Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! 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.** **14** For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. **15** For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. **16** If, then, I do what I will not to do, I*



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agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Paul is here describing the life of a Christian who is seeking to be all that God wants us to be – all that we now, as followers of Christ, want to be! In the next chapter, he reveals a Power that comes to us from outside of ourselves that enables “the righteousness of the Law to be seen in us” – the Holy Spirit.

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God – through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

The answer to Paul’s, and our, dilemma is the Gospel! All the while we are learning to live as the people we now are in Christ, the **imputed** righteousness of Christ by which we are justified covers us – in our “successes” and in our “failures!” As followers of Christ, we live under a canopy of His grace – all the while we are growing in Him, becoming better representatives of Him to a world that is lost and needs a Savior!

Next Week: The conclusion to our study of “The Gospel According to Paul — Romans 1-8.” We will study Chapter 8, where we learn of the source of our new life in Christ and the power by which we can live out a life befitting of a follower of Christ!

[Click to Join Romans Study Group Wednesdays @ 5:30 p.m. MST](#)