

## Session #23: “WHY THE LAW?”—Romans 7:7-14

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area),

Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - [philtwente@att.net](mailto:philtwente@att.net)

For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column under “Site Map”

Note: Reference has been made in the following notes to commentaries on Romans by Pastor Chuck Smith, David Hocking and William Newell.

### Questions:

- Within today’s eight verses, how many ways can you think of as regarding WHY God gave us the Law?
- How does the law remove the ignorance of sin?
- How does the law stir or resurrect our desire to sin?
- How does the law reflect the character of God Himself?
- How does the law remind us of the terribleness of sin?
- How does the law reinforce our need of a Savior?

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD - Romans 1:18-8:39

Principle #1 - CONDEMNATION - 1:18-3:20

Principle #2 - JUSTIFICATION - 3:21-5:21

### Principle #3 - SANCTIFICATION - 6:1-7:25

1A. OUR **REALIZATION** OF CERTAIN FACTS - ROMANS 6:1-10 (dead to sin-alive to God)

2A. OUR **RESPONSIBILITY** TO THESE FACTS - ROMANS 6:11-23 (present-yield; obey)

### • 3A. OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAW - ROMANS 7:1-25

“law” - 523 times; 223 in NT, 148 by Paul of which 78 are in Romans - 23 in chapter 7 alone!

1B. The **ILLUSTRATION** of marriage - 7:1-6

### • 2B. The INSTRUCTION of the law - 7:7- (Why the Law?)

3B. The **IMPOSSIBILITY** of keeping the law - 7:15-25 (The Problem of Sin)

“What shall we say then?” –

6:1 - the **issue of grace** (cf. 5:20);

6:15 - the **issue of freedom** (cf. v. 14);

7:7 - the **issue of sin** - If the inclination to sin comes through the law as implied in 7:5, then **isn’t the law something sinful?** A second question will arise when we come to v. 13 - the point being, if the law is as he says in v. 12, that the law is holy, just and good, then **why can’t the law make us holy?**

### Why the Law?:

- 1C. The law Removes our ignorance of sin – 7
- 2C. The law stirs up or Revives our sinful desires - 8-9, 11
- 3C. The law Requires the penalty of death - 10
- 4C. The law Reflects the character of God Himself – 12 -
- 5C. The law Reminds us of how terrible sin is – 13
- 6C. The law Reveals our carnality – 14
- 7C. The law Reinforces our need of a Savior – 14

*Rom 7:7 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 (desire, craving, lust) unless** the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*

1C. The law Removes our ignorance of sin – 7

cf. Rom. 3:19-20; 1 John 3:4. The problem of “*covetousness*” or “*lust*” - Greek: *epithumia* - noun appears 38 times and the verb another 16 times. Consider the following usages:

Matthew 5:27-28; John 8:44; Romans 1:24; 6:12; 13:14; 1 Cor. 10:6; Gal. 5:16-17; Col. 3:5 (*same as idolatry*); 1 Thess. 4:5; 2 Tim. 2:22; James 1:13-15; 1 Pet. 2:2,11; 1 John 2:15-17

Rom 7:8 But sin, **taking opportunity** (occasion) by the commandment, **produced in me all manner** of evil desire. **For apart from the law sin was dead.**

Rom 7:9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

2C. The law stirs up or Revives our sinful desires - 8-9, 11

1D. Sin stirs the evil desires, NOT the law - 8a

2D. Sin stays hidden and unknown without the teaching of God’s law -8b - “*For apart from the law, sin was dead*”

Rom 7:11 For sin, **taking occasion** (opportunity) by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.

3D. Sin slays us by using the law – 11 - 8, 11 - “*taking occasion*” NIV - “*seizing the opportunity*” NAS - “*taking the opportunity*” Greek: *apormen* - 7 times - cf. Gal. 5:13 or 1 Tim. 5:14 “*deceived me*” - cf. 1 Cor. 10:12; 2 Cor. 11:3

Rom 7:10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death.

3C. The law Requires the penalty of death – 10 - cf. Lev. 18:5 and Ecc. 7:20 “*shall surely be put to death*” - 28 times! Heb. 10:28 - “*He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses*”

Rom 7:12 Therefore the law is **holy**, and the commandment **holy** and **just** and **good**.

4C. The law Reflects the character of God Himself – 12 - Paul calls it “the law of God” - Rom.

7:22, 25; 8:7 Jesus referred to it as “the commandment of God” (Matt. 15:3, 6). He is the Law! It’s His Law.

1D. It is not sinful at all - “*holy*”

2D. It is fair in what it demands - “*just*” **Our God is a fair God!!**

3D. It is beneficial to us - “*good*” - **It protects** our lives, property, families and our society.

Rom 7:13 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**.

5C. The law Reminds us of how terrible sin is – 13 He wants this to be understood by His people, **not to use the law to change us, but to drive us to Christ!**

Rom 7:14 For we know that **the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin**.

6C. The law Reveals our carnality – 14 - “*the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin*” cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-3; Eph. 4:17-24

7C. The law Reinforces our need of a Savior – **Justification and sanctification are by faith** in the finished work of the Messiah! - cf. Galatians 2:16-21; 3:19-25; Matthew 11:28-30

**The whole purpose of the law is to lead or drive us to Jesus Christ!! Are you presenting the gospel message and the Christian walk as one always leading to Christ? “For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life!”**

