

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 9/12-13/2022 *Romans Chapter 7*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

One tap mobile

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17

Romans Chapter 7 – You Cannot be Sanctified by the Law, not license nor legalism, but under liberty! No one can live the Christian life by their own strength - Note the emphasis on Me, Myself and I!

Freed from the Law – vs. 1-6; Sin’s Advantage in the Law – vs. 7-12; Law Cannot Save from Sin – vs. 13-25.

- Chapter seven actually takes up at verse fourteen of chapter six. (**Rom 6:14**) *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*
- The rest of the sixth chapter is parenthetical. Here in chapter seven, he picks up that idea again. He continues from that concept that you are not under law but under grace.

- Think of chapter seven under the title of , “You cannot be sanctified by the Law. For we believers are not under law but under grace.” God provides us with forgiveness. But we have to work around legalism and license, recognizing that we are under liberty.
- We cannot live the Christian life in our own strength, apart from Christ. If we are to live our life in His likeness, then we must be given the power necessary to accomplish this. Otherwise, one’s life will be that of frustration and of becoming just an actor.
- Here is a man given a standard of the law and he is going to try and do it in his own power, not understanding that he access through the Holy Spirit to that power! I cannot save myself! I cannot sanctify myself!
- Christianity is not living a life in our own power, apart from our union in and with Christ!

Released from the Law

Rom 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law (in general, the universal law, all law, not simply the Mosaic Law) has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

Rom 7:2 For the 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.

Rom 7:3 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.

- **We can see four reasons for using this particular illustration.** The marriage relationship helps us to see the universal relationship of man in sin to the law of God. As the wife is under her husband, under his authority, so the whole human race is under the Law of God.
- **Secondly, the illustration also bring out the finding character of the relationship.** Notice the terms: The woman that has a husband is bound by the law to her husband.
- **Thirdly, this illustration brings out the idea of the possibility of entering into a new relationship.** The death of either party ends the relationship, releasing the surviving partner for a new relationship.
- **Fourthly, this particular illustration brings out as nothing else can,** the whole object of this relationship, he tells us in verse four, is that we should bring forth fruit unto God, which is the ultimate purpose of marriage.
- ***Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law).*** This first part is addressed to all Christians. As long as you are alive, law has dominion over you.
- **Then he uses an illustration of how one is bound to another as long as they live,** but how that death frees that bond. He is only using this as an illustration of how that death frees a person from the bonds that existed under the law. So that as long as a person lives he is under the law. Only death frees you from that relationship to the law, even as only death frees a wife from her husband.

Rom 7:4 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.

- **You are not under law. You are under grace.** You are under law as long as you live, but we have died with Christ. We have been crucified with Christ. Thus, the fact that I am dead with Christ, buried with the likeness of His death and risen in that newness of life. In that new life that I now have in Christ, I am no longer under the law, but I am under grace because of death with Christ. It has freed me from the law. Indeed, the whole purpose of salvation is to enable us to keep God’s Law.
- **We see in this verse four general descriptions and definition of the Christian life.** That to be a Christian means that we have an entirely new life! That as a Christian we are in an entirely new relationship! That we have an entirely new purpose in life, namely, to bring forth fruit unto God! That as

a Christian we have been provided with an entirely new ability, a new power and strength! -- New life; new relationship; new purpose, to bring fruit to God; new ability!

- **How does one become a Christian?** How is it possible for me ever to display the four characteristics of the Christian that we have noted? That God, this is the first part of the answer. It because of something that has happened to the Son of God! What has happened to me is because of what happened to Him! It is the fact that He died upon the tree. His body was broken for us. His blood was shed! But He rose again and ever lives to make intercession for us! His presence at the right hand of God is the guarantee of our final and complete salvation.
- **Now we want to see how this change is brought about from what we do.** The Apostle tells us, *Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ.* This is saying that we died with Him. We see Several aspects of our union with Christ. First, it is a real union, a complete union! Secondly, we are to be entirely subject to Him. Thirdly, the union is completely legal and permanent. I am married to Him, and I remain married to Him until one or the other of us dies; but neither the One nor the other of us can ever die!
- **He cannot die again! There is my Husband! He cannot die and I am joined to Him!** We are also reminded that we cannot die either! We have finished with death because we have finished with Law, which alone has the power to prescribe death! The Husband cannot die and because He is victorious over sin and death and cannot ever die! Neither can the wife die! (*Joh 11:25-26*) *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. [26] And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* It is an indissoluble marriage, lasting throughout the countless ages of eternity!

Rom 7:5 For (because) *when we were in the flesh* (carnal, opposite to life, to being in the Spirit), *the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.*

Rom 7:6 *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.*

- **Or not in the fine points of the law. The letter of the law.** Our relationship now and the Jewish relationship to the law. You are dead. Not unto law but unto grace. But as Paul goes on in the chapter, he turns from just a purely Jewish standpoint, to deal with all of us who have had our consciences made alive through the Spirit of God. We who have come to Jesus Christ. And having to come to Jesus Christ, we have this excitement over the Lord and the things of the Lord! We find there is a desire in our hearts now to please the Lord. To do those things that He would have us to do. To live the life that He wants us to live.
- **In this endeavor that we now have to live the life,** you know the first little bit of your Christian experiences are so thrilling and so exciting, all you can think about is Jesus! You are just bubbling over with your excitement and your joy in your love for Him. Then we begin to settle down. I realize that the Lord has required that I love like He loves that I show mercy like He shows mercy, that I be kind as He is kind, tenderhearted, forgiving. I say, yes, that is right. I should be that way. I will be that way. Then, we as Paul, come to the discovery of this nature of sin. How we in ourselves are incapable of being what God would have us to be. The weakness of our flesh.
- **As with Peter, the spirit indeed is willing, but our flesh is weak.** But we come to the consciousness and awareness of the sin within our nature or that nature of sin. Paul declares 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. Paul points out and recognizes that the law was not intended to be a standard that you can live by in order to be righteous before God. The law as properly understood, reveals unto us the sinfulness of our nature. And how far short we have come of God's standards. So, by the law we have then, this awareness and consciousness of our sin.

The Law and Sin

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 unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

- **Paul is declaring that the law was intended to reveal sin and our sinful nature.** We see the use of the personal pronoun, "I," possibly being used to avoid offense to the Jews. Additionally, he brings this situation from the general to the specific of personally testifying. I had not known that it was wrong to desire that which belongs to someone else, except the law said, "*You shall not covet.*" Paul begins to see that sin is not all how you work outwardly, but inwardly, that which is in your heart! Sin is not only an outward thing, but it includes that which is inward, that which is present in my heart!
- **You shall not covet! In Deuteronomy it listed several things.** Your neighbor's house or your neighbor's wife or your neighbor's donkey or whatever. We are not to covet something that belongs to our neighbor. How many of you can plead innocent when you saw your neighbor drive up with his new sports car? We all have been guilty of coveting.

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

- **Here is the problem. This sinful nature of mine.** The law is not sin. It is a revealer of sin. It stirs up sin! Taking *opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.* I was not conscious of my sin until I understood the law. The moment I understood the law then I became conscious of my sin. I began to then to have to reckon with this sinful nature. I had to reckon with my desires. I had to start dealing with them because now I realize these are sinful. **(1Co 15:56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.** Illustration - Do not ever tell a three year old, "don't put a bean up your nose!"

Rom 7:9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived (stirred up, sprang into life) and I died.

- **Paul is probably referring when he said I was without the law once,** to that experience that he had on the road to Damascus. When he really met Jesus, committed his life to the Lord, came into the city of Damascus, met Ananias, the disciple who laid hands on him. He was filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul began to go to the synagogues and preach Christ. It was a new life. It was a new revelation. Suddenly things fell into place. He realized that Jesus is Lord! He began to share in the synagogues the scriptures, showing that Jesus was the Messiah. But then Paul headed out to Arabia. For three years there, I believe, is where Paul went through then this struggle as he began now to realize that the law was spiritual. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. **(Rom 5:20) Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more.**

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

- **The law does not bring life!** It brings death!

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

- **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me!** Sin will always deceive us by telling us that sin can be controlled by law!
- **Again, for this nature of sin. This sinful nature, For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me.** One of the most difficult and frustrating things is to try in our flesh to obey the law of God when you recognize it is spiritual. To try in our flesh to love our neighbor as ourselves. I recognize it is a wonderful principle. I say yes that is wonderful. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone of us were more considerate of others? If we were out to help others as much as we are helping ourselves? That I would be more aware of another person's need. Of course, this is something that we are taught through the New Testament. That we should be concerned. That we should care for

another's needs. How wonderful that would be. I am going to be more considerate. I am going to love others like I love myself. (*Gal 3:21*) *Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.*

- **Then we realize the impossibility of our just doing that!** We realize our sinful nature. We realize that when he takes that larger piece of pie, and there are only two pieces left. How could he do that? I wanted that piece. Even a little bit of resentment begins to grow. He is always that way. Looking out for himself first. That creep! You know it begins to grow on us. No, not that we want it to. But that is just my nature. So, sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. It destroyed me.

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

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.*

- **Therefore, the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.** *Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not!* It is this sinful nature. That is the problem! There is nothing wrong with the law. It is good! It is me. It is this nature of sin that I have.
- **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.** The church needs to understand the sinfulness of sin! That I might realize just how sinful I am. So that I am not trying reformation any longer. I realize that the answer is not in reformation. The only hope is in transformation. Then, Paul begins to account for us his own struggle.

Rom 7:14 *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal (used 2X in Romans, 5X in 1 Cor. - fleshly), **sold under sin.***

- **The law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin!** I am *carnal!* I have this sinful nature. Paul recognizes that the desires in his heart are right. The problem is in his ability to perform the desires of his heart. Recognizing that the law is spiritual. It deals with a man's attitude more than his actions! (*1Co 3:1, 3, 4*) *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. [3] for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? [4] For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?*
- **The Pharisees were interested in keeping the law from an outward standpoint.** The law said to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. You shall not bear any burden or do any servile work on the Sabbath day. All right, we want to keep the Sabbath day holy. We do not want to bear any burden.
- **They sat down and determined how many nails you should have in your sandal** or how many you could have in your sandal before it constituted bearing a burden. If you had one extra nail, if you went over the limit, you are bearing a burden on the Sabbath day. You cannot wear those sandals on the Sabbath day.
- **They were so interested in these little intricacies. All in the outward aspect.** So blinded were they by their laws that through their interpreting of the law they would hinder the work of God in a person's life, because it is the Sabbath day. Look how many run-ins Jesus had with the Pharisees because He was helping people on the Sabbath day. Constantly, there was this conflict. That was the conflict over the Sabbath day. Jesus, violating in their minds the Sabbath day laws, was what created their determination that we are going to kill Him! That was the issue. It was over this Sabbath day observance.
- **Jesus came into the synagogue in Capernaum on the Sabbath day.** There was a man there with a withered hand. Immediately they all looked at Him to see if He would heal that man because it was the Sabbath day. Jesus caught on in a hurry what was going on. He saw the whispers. He saw the commotion as they were looking at this man with a withered hand and looking back at Jesus. He said to the man with the withered man. Stand up. Oh, oh, face off time. This is it. What's He going to do? He

said it to them, is it lawful on the Sabbath day to do good or to do evil? To heal or to kill? He looked on them with anger. Why? Because they through their foolish tradition of the outward observances would hold back the work of God for a man who had a withered hand. They would rather the man go out of the synagogue with a withered hand than to be healed on the Sabbath day. That is how they had become so bound up in the outward observance that they lost the spirit.

- **Now coming to the realization that the law is spiritual.** It is the attitude in my heart that is more important than my actions because if I have a wrong attitude in my heart, I could be as guilty as the one who has the wrong action! For it is out of the heart that proceed the murders and the thefts and the adulteries and the fornications, that something that is in a person's heart.
- **The attitude. It brings to life the action.** Because a person is not actually doing the murder of another person, yet this anger, this bitterness, this hatred, this uptightness. You are guilty because the law is spiritual. It deals with the attitudes, the spirit of a man. We know that the law is spiritual.
- **Paul did not know that until after he had received Jesus Christ as his Lord.** Prior to that Paul was just like the rest of the Pharisees, who was interpreting the law in such a way as he was keeping the law the way he interpreted it. He was keeping it. He was feeling very smug and self-righteous. As concerning the righteousness, which is of the law, Paul said, I was blameless!
- **Like the rich, young ruler that came to Jesus,** he said, I have done that all that all of my life. But then Jesus points out attitudes. He said, well, if you are going to be perfect, then sell everything that you have. Give it to the poor. Come and follow Me. He pointed out that in the fellow's heart there was that covetousness. It is mine! I will not give it away.
- **When you realize that the law is spiritual,** if you had a hard time with it just being physical – based on outward actions. Then to that it is spiritual, based on the inward, what is in your heart, man, you are dead! I mean, we've, all of us, and that is the purpose of the law, to reveal sin to make the whole world guilty before God. So that being aware of my guilt and my sin, I will be forced to come to Jesus Christ. Only He can forgive through the fact that He died for my sins! By my faith in Christ, I have been justified. But by my death with Christ, I have been freed from the law. I am dead to the law. It has no more authority or power over me, I am dead to the law through my death with Christ!
- **Yet, Paul began to struggle. Having this background in the law,** he is now going to seek to please the Lord and be righteous through the keeping and the obedience to the law in his early experience. Paul is writing this to warn us of the futility to keep us from that trap. But amazing, though we have been given this instruction and warning, I think that most of us fall into that trap of trying to keep certain rules that will give to me a righteous standing before God. Discovering the weakness of that sinful nature within.

Vs. 15-24 – Think! I do not have the power! Think of Peter on the night of his betrayal!

Rom 7:15 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.

- **Verse 15 is true of a man who has come to see the spiritual character of the Law.** He sees that he should keep it. It is indeed a description of a man who desires to keep it, but who finds in practice that he cannot! He sees that the Law is spiritual. He admires it. He wants to keep it. But try as he will, he cannot keep it. This verse is nothing but an account of what is true in actual practice of the man described in verse fourteen. This is the truth about a man who is carnal, sold under sin, who nevertheless sees the spiritual character of the law. He sees it, but he cannot attain to it. The Law does not enable him to keep the Law!
- **For what I will to do, that I do not practice;** Now I know that I ought to go visit that person who is sick, but I just do not have the time. There is a football game on tonight. They would not expect me to visit and miss the game. Oh, yes, I know I should. It is interesting how that there are things that we know that we should do that we do not do. Paul goes as far as to say that he is doing things that he hates, *but what I hate, that I do.* Many people find themselves in that position. There is a habit and a besetting sin in their life, and they are doing it and yet they hate themselves for doing it. They are vowing and promising I will

never do that again. They are living in misery, doing the things that they actually hate, bound, by chains and habits.

Rom 7:16 *If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.*

- **I know that is good.** And I know that I should do that. Or I know that I should not do that; thus, I am consenting to the law. I recognize that the law is right. I am wrong. What God has said is right. The law is good. He is saying that it is obvious the Law itself is no way responsible for his failures in practice. Neither is he saying anything against the Law.
- **He is dealing with the law, what the Law can do, what the Law cannot do** – the place of the Law in God’s economy and scheme and plan of salvation.

Rom 7:17 *But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

- **Now, if I am in this position where I am desiring to do the right but still doing the wrong,** consenting that the law is good, then it is no more I that am doing it, but it is this sin principle in me. This nature of sin in me. My heart, my desire is to do the right thing. This sinful nature within me is leading me in the wrong path.

Rom 7:18 *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.*

- **For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;** I know I’m rotten through and through! Anyone who can really understand and believe that about themselves, is well on their way of victory over sin. I know “the what,” but I lack “the how!” Really, I lack the “Who!”
- **Paul goes on to say, I am in a turmoil. I have the desire to do the right thing.** I want to do the right thing. How to do it? I cannot seem to find the key.

Rom 7:19 *For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.*

Rom 7:20 *Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

- **Repeating now, He says, this I, is not really me.** This is not what I desire. I am doing what I do not desire. Why? Because of this power of sin. The sinful nature, this body of flesh, in which I still live.

Rom 7:21 *I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.*

Rom 7:22 *For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.*

- **I not only consent that to the law that it is good, but I delight in the law of God.** I delight in the things that Jesus said I should be. I want to love the unlovely as He said I should. He said if I just love those that are very lovable and all, so what? The heathen do that. If I only loan to someone that I expect to get the money back, with a little interest, so what? The heathen do that. So, I consent, Oh Lord, yes, I want to be kind. I want to be sweet. I want to be generous. I want to be giving. I want to be self-sacrificing. I want to do for others. I consent, Lord. I delight in the things in your law according to the inward man.

Rom 7:23 *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.*

- **This difficult area of knowing what is right, desiring what is right, but the inability to do** what is right! Our goal, as Christians is to bring our practice up to our position in Christ! We are never to forget our position in Christ! **(Gal 3:24-26)** *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. [25] But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. [26] For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

Rom 7:24 *O wretched (miserable) man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

- ***O wretched man that I am!*** Do you ever come to the end of the day, thinking I hate what I am. I hate what I do. I love your word, I love your law
- **Paul's struggle finally brings him to the acknowledgment of his own inability.** I am in this bondage to my flesh. Who shall deliver me? I tried to deliver myself. I cannot! Who shall deliver me? Isn't it interesting how we have struggled to deliver ourselves from the motions and the power of the flesh? We go through these struggles. We pray. We cry before God. We repent. Then we promise that we are going to do better.
- **The very promise to do better is trusting in my flesh.** But in me, that is in my flesh, dwells no good thing. I am not going to find the answers until I search outside myself. **Who shall deliver me?** It is not how shall I deliver myself? What is the secret formula? What are the ten steps to a victorious life? But **it is who shall deliver me?** I am reaching now for power outside of my own.
- **It is interesting that in the alcoholics anonymous program, they have come to the recognition that a man cannot deliver himself from alcoholism.** One of their steps is recognizing that you cannot deliver yourself. Seek for a higher power, God, as you understand Him, to help you. That is an important step.
- **But it is an important step in our Christian experience.** I cannot deliver myself from this fleshly nature of sin from the carnality that is in me. I have to have outside help. God allows me to struggle. God allows me to fail until I come to the place of crying out to Him for help! If I could conquer over these things in my flesh then I would glory not in God, but in what I have done. I would be boasting to others of what I have done. I would be writing little success booklets to show others how they can do what I have done and be successful too.
- **But because I cannot do it. I have to have help.** When the Lord then comes as He does and delivers me from this power of the flesh and this sin nature. When He sets me free and gives me power over it, I recognize it is not me. I could not do it! But what I could not do for myself, God has done for me and thus the glory goes to God, the praise to God in acknowledging what the Lord has done! And the praise and glory all goes to God and not to man!
- **As we get into chapter eight, Paul will bring out this principle in verse three.** For what the law could not do, because it was weak through the flesh, (not that the law was bad, but it was the weakness of my flesh), God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled, not by me, but in me! So, O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Rom 7:25 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.

- **So, Paul does not leave the seventh chapter in total despair!** *I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!* There is deliverance. I do not have to be in bondage to my flesh. I do not have to constantly be failing the test. I do not have to constantly be angry and be following the motions of my flesh. Thank God there is help through Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ***So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, Yes!*** My purpose, my heart, it is in my mind. *but with the flesh the law of sin.* That is why it is important that we walk in the Spirit and not after the flesh. So that we have the mind of the Spirit and the life of the Spirit. So, the answer to the struggles that we go through in our Christian walk as we are trying to please God. Only to realize the power of the sinful nature until we are brought to the end of ourselves, and we begin to cry out in desperation for help apart from ourselves. We have tried everything, and it has failed. Oh, God, help me!
- **Throughout my Christian experience, the Lord has been showing to me things in my life that are not pleasing to Him.** Areas where the flesh is still in control. And this has been going on for years. He seems to deal with things sort of one at a time. I am glad for that. Had He shown me everything at the beginning, I would probably have not even tried! I would have been wiped out! But He shows me one thing at a time, things in my life that He wants to deal with. As He, step by step, is bringing me into the image of Jesus Christ. As He is changing me from glory to glory, into that same image.

- **But this is the way it generally goes. The Lord will show me this area of my life.** He will show me how ugly it is in His sight. I see it as He sees it. And it is terrible! And I say, Oh, Lord, that is horrible. How could I have ever done that? Oh, Lord, I will never do that again, I promise. And I do it again. And the Spirit will convict me. And I will say, how could I? I do not want to do that. It is not right. I will not do it again. I just promise you, Lord. I will not. And then I fail again.
- **That process continues until I finally recognize that I cannot help doing it.** There is this other law of the sinful nature, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. So, I finally get to the place, in desperation I cry out, Oh God help me! Deliver me! Set me free! And He does. Once I come to that acknowledgment and recognition. Now a lot of the things are simple. So, when the simple one come along, I say, oh, oh, no problem Lord! You know we will get rid of that right away. And it is often in those very simple places where I have the greatest difficulty because I am sure I can do that. Some of those really difficult areas, the minute He shows me, I say, no way, Lord, I cannot do that. Lord, no way. And He is able to work immediately in those areas. That no flesh should glory in His sight.
- **There is victory for you, no matter what the particular issue is in your life,** where the flesh is in control. There is victory for you! Whatever the area of weakness be, God has victory for you. And God wants you to know His victory so that when He delivers, you recognize, “Thanks be to Jesus Christ. He set me free!”
- **With my mind I serve the law of God. In my flesh nothing good dwells.** So, we come then in chapter eight. And these chapters are tied together so to give the whole message, you have to be here next week. In chapter eight, Paul then goes on to say, we and all of creation are groaning and travailing together until now as we wait for the manifestation of the sons of God, that is, the redemption of our bodies. Oh, God, hasten the day when I am delivered from this body of flesh! With its desires and it is motion, and I have my glorified body! Oh, yes, Lord! How wonderful that will be! But in the meantime, He will set us free from that power of the sin principle in us.
- **There is victory for you tonight!** There is no need for any of us to be continuing in the same pattern of sin. The moment that you recognize that you cannot do anything about it, and you turn it over, completely and fully, to Jesus Christ. In that moment you will discover His power and His victory. And then He will show you another area that needs cleaning up.
- **But we are progressing.** I am not yet what I am going to be. But thank God, I am not what I was! I am on the way. Do this and live, the law demands. But it gives me neither feet nor hands. I am helpless. It only tells me what to do, but it does not give me the capacity to do it. A better work the gospel brings. It bids me to fly and then it gives me wings. The power of the gospel! The ability to do what we are commanded to do.
- **Going back to that man in the synagogue with the withered hand.** After Jesus looked on the Pharisees with anger because they would hold this man back from the work of God because it violated their interpretation of the law, He just said to the man, “Stretch forth your hand.” Immediately, we read, that he stretched forth his hand and it was whole as the other. Now when Jesus said, stretch forth your hand, He was giving to the man an impossible command. The hand was withered. For Jesus to say, stretch forth your hand. That is impossible! It was an impossible command. Now the man could have pleaded the impossibility. He could have said, Lord, I had a stroke. Since this stroke, I just have not been able to move it, Lord. You know, I have tried. You know, many times, but the nerves are just cut off or whatever, Lord. I just cannot move it, you know. He could have argued with the command. He could have just given to Jesus all the reasons why he could not.
- **But instead, when Jesus said stretch forth your hand, he willed to obey the command!** The brain gave the message once more to that withered hand that had not responded to the brain for so many years. And when he willed to obey the command of Jesus, he found that immediately, Jesus gave to him all of the power that was necessary to obey! Now the Lord speaks to us about the blinded areas of our lives, the withered areas of our life. And he says, now be free! And what do we do? Usually, we argue. Oh Lord, you do not know how I love to be free. Oh, Lord, I have tried so hard! Oh, man, Lord! You know, and we are arguing. We are telling Him why we cannot. That is impossible, Lord! I have tried.

- **But if we will obey, the command of Jesus, we will discover** that in our will to obey, everything necessary to obey, will be given to us at that moment. Jesus is dealing with areas in your life tonight. As we have been speaking, the Holy Spirit has been pointing out in your life, that area that the Lord wants to clean up. That area where the Lord wants to set you free. Where He wants to deliver you. That blighted area that He wants to change. And He is speaking to you tonight about that.
- **Now, you can do two things. You can go out and try and do it.** You can say, Lord, I will do that. And you will go on a little longer in your struggle.
- **Or you can say, Oh, Lord, wretched man that I am. I cannot! But with your strength, I will!** And you will discover that He just gives you the power to have victory. And then to God be the glory for the things that He had done! To Him be praise and glory and honor, forever and ever. For God has wrought for me what I could not do for myself. A life of victory in Christ.

Next week! *Life in the Spirit - (Rom 8:1-4)* *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. [3] For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, [4] that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

SUMMARY:

- Dead to the law – vs. 1-4
- Our Problem with God’s Perfect Law – v. 5-12
- Delivered from the Law – v. 6
- The Purpose and Character of the Law – v. 13-14
- The Struggle of Obedience of our own strength – 15-23
- The Victory Found in Jesus Christ – 24-25

I SPEAK JESUS Here be Lions, Dustin Smith (4:00/4:04)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind
 'Cause I know there is peace within Your presence I speak Jesus
 I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break
 Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus
 'Cause Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life
 Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire
 I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety
 To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus
 Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life
 Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire
 Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family I
 speak the holy name Jesus (2x)
 Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows
 Burn like a fire.
 I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind 'Cause I know there is peace within His
 presence I speak Jesus

CLOSING PRAYER: Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 8!