

Romans chapter 7

BOLD (11/24/2019)

Intro: This chapter has to do with our relationship to the law prior and subsequent to our conversion (law/commandment mentioned over 20x).

- A. The law and its legal demands on us (7:1-13)
 - a. Illustration from marriage (7:1-3)
 - In Christ's death, the legal demands of the law were satisfied (7:4-6)
 - Debt paid and righteousness provided (Rom 8:3-4; Col 2:14)
 - Raised with Christ to live in the power of the Spirit (7:6)
 - b. The law & its purpose (7:7-13)
 - It is righteous, holy and good (7:7,12)
 - It exposes sin (7:7,13)
 - Sin is made alive by the commandments (7:9)
 - Was meant to give life (7:10; Lev 18:5; Ez 20:11,13)
- B. Paul's self-evaluation in light of the law (7:14-25)
 - a. Who is the "I" in 7:14ff?
 - A newly converted Paul who is immature in the faith, or a mature but at a time of weakened faith?
 - Paul during his 3 days of blindness- awakened but not yet indwelt by the spirit?
 - Paul impersonating a pre-Pentecost Jewish believer who understands justification by faith, but is using the law for sanctification?
 - Paul as a mature believer describing his spiritual warfare between the flesh and spirit?
 - b. Reasons why I believe it is Paul describing his spiritual warfare:
 1. The natural flow of the passage: (:4-6) First person plural in past tense; (:7-13) first person singular in past tense; (:14-17) first person singular in present tense
 2. Describes a person who demonstrates the marks of a converted man: Delights in the law of God (:16, 22); hates sin and does not willingly give himself to it (:14-15, :20,23); Sees his helplessness & looks to Christ for deliverance (:18, 25)
 3. This struggle is consistent with our Christian experience and the rest of the NT (Gal 5:16-17)
- C. Troubling questions:
 1. How do we reconcile sin in the flesh and freedom from sin? (7:14 & 6:17-18)
 - Big difference between being ruled by sin, loving and yielding to it as your master; as opposed to being tempted by sin, but hating, resisting and treating it as your enemy
 2. What about the Holy Spirit's power to overcome sin in the flesh? (Rom 8:13)
 - Indeed! we are helpless in our warfare against sin without Him (8:13)
 - However, as believers we can quench and grieve the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19; Eph 4:30); hence we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit and to yield to Him (Eph 5:18; Gal 5:16-18)
- D. The place of God's moral law in our lives as Christians
 - We have a new heart, and God's law written on them (Ez 36:26; Heb 8:10)
 - We obey Him out of love and gratitude (evangelical vs. legalistic law keeping)

Romans chapter 8

Intro: This is one of the best-known and best-loved chapters of the Bible. The overall theme is God's steadfast love to his covenant children. It is loaded with salvation blessings.

1. Deliverance from the condemnation of the law (8:1-4)
 - Christ has fulfilled the righteous demands of the law (8:2-4)
 - No ONE can bring a charge or condemn us (:33-34)
 - God justified us (8:33)
 - Christ died, rose, and is interceding for us (8:34)
2. God has given us his life-giving Spirit (8:5-27)
 - He empowers us to live holy lives (8:5-13)
 - He assures us of our adoption & inheritance (8:14-25)
 - He aids us in our prayers (8:26-27)
3. God works **all things** for our good and His glory (8:28)
 - All things are under His sovereign control
4. God's steadfast love for us was from eternity past to eternity future. (8:29-30)
 - "golden chain of redemption"
 - He set his love on us and chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world (8:29; Eph 1:4)
 - He called us and justified us (8:30)
 - He is committed to making us like His Son (8:29)
 - He has glorified us in Christ and will one day bring us home to be with Him (8:31)
 - Christ our representative is seated in heaven and we are seated with Christ (8:34; Eph 2:6)
5. What shall separate us from God's love? (8:35-39)
 - Can physical trials and sufferings separate us from the love of God? (8:35-36)
 - Trials may rob us of joy for a season, but they can't touch the bond of love that binds us to Christ, nor affect the flow of His love to us.
 - Can anything in creation, physical or spiritual, be able to separate us from the love of God? (8:38-39)
 - No! *"Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (8:39)
*"In all of these, we are more things **we are more than conquerors** through him who loved us"* (:37)
 - God's love is mightier than all of those things. No evil in the world can stop Christ from loving us.