

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



8. Free from the Law

Introduction

The wonderful message of the gospel is that when we come to Jesus we are made righteous. Our sin is washed away and we are made new. Now we can begin to live a righteous life. However this is not always easy! There is often a conflict inside us, between what we should do and what we do. The next chapter we are going to study in the book of Romans speaks about this.

Scripture Reading: Romans 7:1-25

1. Free from the Law v1-6

- ☉ In verse 6 it says that we are released from the law so that we can serve 'in the new way of the Spirit'. What do you think this means? Look at the chart on the back page to help you understand the meaning of the illustration of marriage that Paul uses.

(Everyone has broken God's law and faces the punishment which is death. When we put our trust in Jesus and his death for us, we are free from the law and its' punishment. Now we receive the power of the Holy Spirit to do what pleases God.)

2. Purpose of the Law v7-13

- ☉ How does the Apostle Paul describe the law in verses 12 and 14?

(It is holy, righteous and good. It is spiritual.)

- ☉ What is the purpose of the law according to verses 7 and 13?

(The law helps us to know what sin is.)

Imagine what would happen if there were no road laws! There would be chaos, but the police would be powerless to do anything as there were no laws. In some places it seems that there are no road laws, but it is probably because the laws are not being enforced. However laws are good as they show us what is right and what is wrong. When they are used properly there is order on the roads. This is like God's law – it is good and when they are followed there is safety and peace. However the law also shows us when we are wrong.

- ☉ What do you think verses 8 to 10 mean?
- ☉ Has there been something you wanted to do even though you knew it was wrong? Why do you think you wanted to do that?

There is something inside of us that is attracted to, or wants to do the things that we know we should not do. This is what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. They were attracted to the tree that God had told them not to eat from. It seemed more desirable because they had been told not to take the fruit. And all of us are like that! Although sin may seem desirable, Paul tells us that it is deceitful. V11

- ☉ In what ways does sin deceive us? Do you have any examples from your own life?

(We often think sin will bring us pleasure, but it actually brings us into bondage and death.)

3. Conflict of the Law v14-25

- ☉ What are the different laws that Paul is referring to in verses 21-23 and verse 25?

(God's law and the law of sin.)

- ☉ We all have struggles! What are the things you struggle with most in your Christian life?

- ☉ Paul tells us there is only one solution. What is it? See verses 24-25.

(It is only through Jesus Christ that we can live the Christian life. Without him, it is impossible.)

Conclusion

Often when someone asks us how we are getting on we say, 'we are fine', even though we may be struggling. We are afraid to admit that we are struggling. However the Apostle Paul, who was one of the greatest Christians, says that he struggled too. He knew that the only answer is in Christ. Whether you have been a Christian one month or 20 years, you still need Jesus. We can only do what pleases God through him, and he has given us all we need to enable us to live in victory. In our next study we will look at some of the keys for living the Christian life.



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Romans 7:1-6

