

ROMANS 7:1-25: Dead to the Law - Deliverance from the Law of Sin

I. Introduction

In Romans 7, Apostle Paul sets the stage of the continuous conundrum that man has with the law and sin. He begins the chapter by using a very practical example that the Jews would readily understand - how the law binds a woman to her husband, so long that the husband is alive and if that husband dies she is lawfully free from being married to that man. The point he is trying to illustrate here is explained plainly in verse 4, "So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God." This powerful verse is the foundation of the entire chapter.

He then goes on to describe the role that our old nature plays in arousing sinful desires in us, thus leading to death. He then introduces the concept of life in the Spirit as a result of us dying with Christ Jesus and how this enables Believers to live a life of servitude to God, free and independent of the law.

Verse 7 transitions us to the other major theme of this chapter, how the law, although holy, good and righteous, created a cycle for man, where due to the old nature (sin) still being alive, it uses God's holy commands to condemn man to the point of death. Verse 14 states "So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin." He highlights here the fundamental problem in trying to be obedient to the Law- the impossibility of attaining that goal whilst one still lives according to the old nature or the flesh.

Human nature subjects man to a life of slavery to sin. Apostle Paul powerfully and explicitly describes the struggle that Believers experience in trying to obey the holy commands of God. The war between the power of sin at work in a man and the strong desire to please God is the daily struggle that Believers grapple with. The chapter ends with giving us the only viable solution in ending this slavery that man has been subjected to: life through Jesus Christ our Lord!

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 7:1-25

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

Agape House of Worship
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1. What was the significance of Apostle Paul comparing believers and the law to a woman and divorce.
2. In verse 4, the Bible says the result of dying to the power of the law is a “harvest of good deeds for God” (NLT). Discuss what these good deeds are.
3. Verse 7, says “it was the law that showed me my sin”, what does this mean to a believer?
4. Discuss the dichotomy that is present with the idea of the law being righteous, good and holy and yet producing death in the believer.
5. Verse 21 says “I have discovered this principle of life — that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.” How can a believer overcome this issue that Apostle Paul mentions here?
6. Apostle Paul refers to the “war with my mind” in verse 23, discuss this war as it relates to a believer's walk with God.
7. From verse 25, discuss practically how Jesus has helped us win this war that believers are engaged in daily.

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?