

The Book of Romans

Chapter Seven - *Problems With the Old Man*

I. Introduction - Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian!

This one Book in your Bible condenses down into 16 chapters the greatest themes of all humanity - the themes of sin, judgment, justification, sanctification, victory, eternal security, and service!

II. Book Review So Far - *There are Six Sections to Romans*

A. SECTION ONE - **Dealing With Sin** - Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 1. **The Righteousness and Wrath of God** - Describes the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (ruined utterly in character or quality)!

Chapter 2. **The Sin of Self-Righteousness** - There are so many people who look at the list and find some way of excusing THEMSELVES, and looking down at OTHERS - “civilised” vs “heathen” and the lower classes

B. SECTION TWO - **Our Great Salvation** - Chapters 3-5 (*Justification*)

Chapter 3. The fact of There Being No Difference - No Excuses

Chapter 4. How To Become Strong in Faith

Chapter 5. The Benefits of Salvation

C. We are in SECTION THREE - **The Christians’ Sanctification** - Chapters 6 and 7

1. We have learned so far WHAT CHRIST DID WITH OUR SIN
2. We are focusing our attention onto WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH SIN!
3. Meaning of “Sanctification” - To *set apart, protect, to keep clean*
4. Importance of Sanctification (2 Tim 2:21)
 - a. Nobody likes to eat a half-eaten burger - we want a fresh one
 - b. No one likes to put on dirty socks - we desire clean ones
 - c. No one enjoys breathing dirty air - but rather clean, fresh air
 - d. God does not use dirty, filthy Christians either! Christians can be dirty and filthy in body, in soul, and in spirit!
 - e. So God works hard in our lives to keep us clean
5. Compares best to a **Lantern** that must be kept clean in order to allow it to light the surrounding room!!!
6. Chptr 6 says that a Christian’s Sanctification involved two things:
 - a. Stop Living (continuing) In Sin (6:1-7; 1 Pe 1:15,16) Be holy
 - b. Start Living In Christ (6:8-23) - Allow HIM to Fill the Void

III. Focus Verse: Romans 7:18

IV. Study Lesson - Dealing With Our “Old Man” (Romans 7:1-25)

A. Review- Every Christian has ___ Natures (Ro 6:6; 2 Co 5:17; 4:16)

1. An _____ - What we were born with. Body, flesh, outer man
2. A _____ (2Cor 5:17) - second birth, something inside is brand new (Eph 4:22-24)
3. These two do not get along! That is the battle a Christian fights!

B. A Christian is ___ to the Law (Rom 7:1-4) – not to its constraints, but to its condemnation

1. The Law is compared to a binding contract like a _____
2. And the contract was “in force” until the death of a partner
3. Thankfully, the Law died at the cross (Eph 2:12-16) when the “body of Christ” was sacrificed to pay-off the penalties of the Law.
4. Specifically, it was in power only until it was fulfilled (Mt 5:17)
5. So, a Christian has no further relationship to the dominion of the Law - _____ - forget trying to be perfect to get to heaven! People under the power of the Law HAD to live by it!
6. A sinner is married to the Law _____. Once saved, the Law has no power over the Christian. Christ does (Tit 2:11,12)

7. This is not to say that the Law is not good (Cf 7:7). It still rightly defines sin, and holiness, and righteousness.
8. Far too many Christians have the attitude that because they cannot lose their salvation, then they can do anything that they want - that is the sin of _____ - being on the fence! The Christian is saved to no longer serve the Law (as we shall see), but rather to serve Christ, which requires us to live right, and holy as well, but not in order *to obtain* salvation, but *because* of it (Eph 2:8-10)!
9. These same Christians completely refuse to read and study the Old Testament, even though _____ is where _____ that we believe is founded! They are shallow Christians, with only self in mind!

C. A Christian is _____ from the law's power over the soul (7:5-6)

1. Not only is our old "partner" (the Law) dead (it is still there, but not dominating - God considers it dead), but we are delivered from any power that the Law had over our eternity!
2. Notice that the Law only aggravated sin - made sin worse - killed us!
3. But now that we are saved, the thing that had held us on a collision course with death and hell, itself is now dead!
4. All so that we could SERVE in the newness of spirit instead of in the oldness of the "letter" (7:6; 2Cor 3:6)

First Husband - Law
 Caused us to Become Dead
 Affects my flesh
 Produces fruit - death
 Oldness of the letter
(Rituals, Ceremonies)

Second Husband - _____
 Causes us to be Alive _____
 Affects my _____
 Produces fruit - _____
 Newness of the spirit
(Spirit and Truth - John 4:24)

5. The "letter" of the Law gets old when you just follow instructions without a personal relationship with the Author of those "letters." They become only rituals, and ceremonies that are empty. But once a person meets the Author, and understands the eternal perspective behind it all, the letters, words, sentences come alive!
6. If a person is only "serving" God in the rituals, and ceremonies of "the Law," then they have not trusted Christ, and are still LOST!
7. Holy living is not found in doing the Law, but in _____ (Gal 5:16)!

D. A Christian is Still Bound to This _____ (7:7-23)

1. Therefore, the law is still very necessary (7:7)
 - a. The instructions are correct - my ability to follow the instructions was flawed
 - b. Sin is not revealed _____ - either a written moral code, or an unwritten conscience (Rom 2:14,15). Without the Law, sin had no life - no power - no enemy.
2. Even though I am saved, this flesh is still headed for a hole in the ground! I have got to get rid of this "old man" and get a new body - which is exactly what is promised me (1Cor 15:50-54)
3. Sin used the Law to deceive me, and kill me spiritually (7:8-11)
 - a. I was born "_____" (without the knowledge of right and wrong) Dt 1:39 - I had sin, but it was not charged to me because of my inability to even comprehend good and evil.
 - b. Then, the Law (either by conscience, or written moral code) slew me (killed me spiritually, Eph 2:1-5) - God used _____ Law I went by to bring me to a knowledge that I was a sinner against HIM. Everywhere a person turns, they are facing a system that condemns him or her as "flawed" (unable to be perfect) - religion, govt, society...
 - c. So, the FOUR-FOLD PURPOSE of the Law is as follows:
 - 1) To outline God's holiness, and HIS standards (Rom 7:12)
 - 2) To reveal sin as it really is (Rom 7:7)
 - 3) To condemn sin (Gal 3:13; Rom 3:19; 4:15) - write it off; no toleration
 - 4) To direct sinners to Christ (Gal 3:24)
 - d. The Law does not, and cannot: _____, or _____ - only God's grace can do that (Gal 3:21-24; Rom 8:3,4)!

4. We cannot blame the Law, but ___ for our predicament (7:11,12) Ignorance is not possible, unless we are infants, autistic, mongoloid, etc. Notice that more and more people are claiming “temporary insanity” in court cases these days to get out of responsibilities! A true Christian will acknowledge that the OT Law is right, and important to know and understand!
5. The purpose of the Law was to make sin be ___ sinful (7:13) - so we would not think of sin lightly, but fearfully! **Oh that people would look to the Law again - so that they could need Christ!**
6. Here begins the struggle: for the sinner to face their sin, and the Christian to realize what kind of a life they have been called to live!
7. The Law is spiritual, but my flesh is _____, and sold away (dominated) to sin (7:14-16) - Let’s look at the proof:
 - a. I do the very things that I wont allow someone else to do
 - b. What I want to do, I don’t do
 - c. The very things that I hate, I end up doing
8. Since I CAN’T seem to do what I should, I need the Law (7:16) to keep my flesh in line, while I serve the Spirit. Very complicated here!
9. There is an ‘I’ in me that is not the problem, but SIN, and the fact that ‘I’ love the sin (7:17,18) - MY WILL is neutral.
 - a. As a Christian, my choice is to do right - I love the law of God in my inner man (my will, my MIND; 2Cor 4:16 which is the image of God in me that is marred). I got born again, so the Spirit of God is in me to draw me to things that are right, and pure, and good, and to restore that image of God.
 - b. But I can’t seem to always do right - something keeps fighting me - what’s wrong with me?
 - c. Sin is the problem - brought into the world through Adam by Satan (Rom 5:12).
 - d. Sin is bound in my flesh, my physical life, my body (which is called my “outward man” which perishes (2Cor 4:16).
 - e. Even though I have been delivered from the penalty of sin, I have not been delivered from its presence - it is a drain, and drag on my desire to live for God! I am locked in a struggle.
 - f. The normal Christian concludes that they just can’t wait to be delivered from this “body of death” that we have to carry around and deal with all the time.
 - g. Notice that it is not “WHAT” shall deliver me, but WHO!!! No psychology, no education, no drugs, no paycheck can deliver a person from hell, or from death, or from the Christian struggle - ONLY JESUS CHRIST can!!

E. A Christian is Also Bound For Heaven - All Because of Christ (7:24,25)

1. Notice who Paul is quick to acknowledge! His salvation is BINDING, and more powerful than any other binding (7:1-4).
2. So, our delieverer not only WAS Christ(from the punishment of sin), but IS Christ (deliveres me from the power of sin - keeps me), and WILL BE Jesus Christ (from the very presence of sin; 2Cor 1:10)!
3. One of these days, when you die, you will be torn apart:
 - a. My spirit is inhabited by the Holy Spirit.
 - b. My soul and spirit will separate from my body and go up to be with the Lord Jesus.
 - c. But my body will go into the grave and rot like it should!
4. So, until the day I reach heaven, I am just going to have to keep fighting my body’s desire to serve sin, so that I can serve God!
 - a. It will be a never ending battle - until the day you die
 - b. Yet, it is a steadily advancing battle - no Christian HAS to give in to sin always. Every Christian has the potential to sin less and less as they mature - just like a child is to disobey less and less.
 - c. The only way to mature, and not give in, is to obey the Spirit, through the clear commands of the word of God. Trying to do it without the Bible is NOT spiritual, but *self* again!

VI. Study Questions