

## The LAW is Bad? NO it's Good! ~ Romans 7:1-13

→Scripture Reading Romans 1:17, 3:21-22, 6:11-12, 7:4

### INTRODUCTION

<sup>1:18</sup> The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...

<sup>3:21</sup> But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. <sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

<sup>5:1</sup> ...since we have been **JUSTIFIED** through **faith**, we **HAVE peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

#### **JUSTIFICATION means a New...**

- STATUS - Right Relationship with God
- FAMILY - Child of God
- FUTURE - Transformed life

<sup>6:11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves **DEAD** to sin but **ALIVE** to God in Christ Jesus.

### What was the PURPOSE of the Law? ~ Romans 7:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Do you not know, brothers - for I am speaking to men who **KNOW** the **LAW** - that the law has authority **OVER** a man only as long as he **LIVES**? <sup>2</sup> For example, by law a married woman is **BOUND** to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is **RELEASED** from the law of marriage. <sup>3</sup> So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still **ALIVE**, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is **RELEASED** from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

<sup>4</sup> So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the **BODY** of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God. <sup>5</sup> For when we **WERE** controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions **AROUSSED** by the **LAW** were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup> But now, by **DYING** to what once bound us, we have been **RELEASED** from the law so that we serve in the **NEW** way of the Spirit, and **NOT** in the old way of the written code.

Since Jesus **DIED** as our Representative, we died with Him. In His death He **FULFILLED ALL** the claims of the Law by paying the **AWFUL** penalty. Therefore we are **FREE** from the Law and from the curse. MacDonald

### IMPLICATIONS

→Because we Died with Christ the **LAW** has no **POWER** over us

<sup>4</sup> ... you also **died to the Law** THROUGH the **BODY** of Christ...

**Galatians 2:20** (NIV) I have been **CRUCIFIED** with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I **LIVE** in the body, I live by **FAITH** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

→Because we are **UNITED** with Christ we are **Free** to **SERVE** be **Fruitful**

<sup>4</sup> ...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. (NLT)

<sup>6:11</sup> In the same way, count yourselves **DEAD** to sin but alive to God...

<sup>7:6</sup> ...by **DYING** to what once bound us, we have been **RELEASED** from the law  
...SO THAT we serve in the **NEW** way of the Spirit...

**Romans 6:12-13** (NLT) Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an **INSTRUMENT** to do what is **RIGHT** for the glory of God.

<sup>14</sup> For sin shall **NOT** be your master, because you are **NOT** under **LAW**, but under **grace**.

## God's LAW Reveals our SIN ~ Romans 7:7-13

<sup>7</sup> What shall we say, then? Is the LAW sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what COVETING really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet." <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing the OPPORTUNITY afforded by the commandment, PRODUCED in me every kind of COVETOUS desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

The Law expressed God's Will and made people Accountable. NLTN

<sup>9</sup> Once I was alive APART from law; but when the commandment came, SIN sprang to life and I DIED. <sup>10</sup> I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

Perfect obedience to the law could bring eternal life, and with it happiness and holiness. But NO ONE except Christ has - or could - ever perfectly and fully OBEY it. MacArthur

<sup>11</sup> For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, DECEIVED me, and through the commandment put me to death. <sup>12</sup> So then, the law is HOLY, and the commandment is holy, righteous and GOOD. <sup>13</sup> Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Sin NOT the Law brings death, and it is only through the Law that sin can be recognized as sin. Sin uses the Law in order to continue to produce death in people because people cannot keep the Law in their own strength. But, by using the commandments as instruments of death, sin reveals itself in all its ugliness. LABC

## IMPLICATIONS

### ➔ Sin STARTS in our hearts and MINDS

<sup>8</sup> But SIN, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, PRODUCED in me EVERY KIND of Covetous DESIRE

Paul understood that evil THOUGHTS are just as sinful as evil DEEDS. He had a polluted thought life. His outward life may have been relatively blameless, but his inward life was a chamber of horrors. MacDonald

**Luke 6:45** (NIV) The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the OVERFLOW of his HEART his MOUTH speaks.

**Hebrews 4:12** (NIV) For the WORD of God is LIVING and ACTIVE. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the THOUGHTS and ATTITUDES of the heart.

## TAKE AWAY ??

**The PURPOSE of Law is...** LABC

- to REVEAL the Character and HEART of God
- to Clearly teach us what Sin IS
- to Demolish all our Self-righteousness
- to show our NEED for Jesus Christ and His Teachings
- to help us see our Desperate NEED for God's Word and His Spirit

**Matthew 22:37-40** (NIV) Love the Lord your God with ALL your HEART and with ALL your SOUL and with ALL your MIND. <sup>38</sup> This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.

**Romans 6:14** (NLT) Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the LAW. Instead, you live under the FREEDOM of God's GRACE.