

The Book of Romans - Part 26

Thank you for joining me once again for "It's a Good Life." I trust that you have your Bible each time we gather together and follow along with me as we study the Word of God.

We're picking up our study today in Romans 7 and we're going to start with verse 13. If you don't have your Bible, please get your Bible and we'll study that together in just a moment.

I would ask you to write me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. I would like to hear from you. Let me know you're listening and if you have any prayer requests that you'd like to share with me I'll be glad to pray with you about those requests. I'll never give your name to anyone else. This is between you and me, and we'll pray together and ask God's blessings upon those prayer requests that you might have. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Well, today, we want to pick up our study in the book of Romans chapter 7. In verse 13, it says, *Was then that which is good made death unto me?* Paul is talking about the Ten Commandments here now. He says, *God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin...* In other words, the Ten Commandments, the law, was given that Paul could understand what sin was, and that's the reason the law was given to us today and down through the ages to let us know that we're sinners. Paul says, *But sin, that it might appear sin working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*

Sin was and is identified by the law. Any sin is as bad as another, and let me give you an example here. Stealing is as bad as murder, lust is adultery, and so forth. If one sin is

committed, we are guilty of all according to the Word of God.

In James 2:10-11, it says, *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point....* In other words, if you don't do one thing that's wrong, in other words, sin, if you do not steal, but if you do something else that's wrong, the Bible says here in James 2, *For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.* ¹¹*For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.*

In Matthew 5:28, the Bible says, *But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

Romans 2:1 says, *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

We're guilty of breaking the whole law if we do one thing that's wrong, and that's the reason the Bible says we cannot be saved unless we have asked Jesus Christ into our hearts.

In Romans 7:14, Paul says, *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal....* In other words, fleshly, sold under sin. "The law is spiritual but I'm in the flesh," Paul's saying, "and as a result of being in the flesh, I became a possession of the law. The law possessed me."

And Paul goes on in verses 15-20 and let's read that together. ¹⁵*For that which I do I*

allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul seems to be saying here, “Though I desire to do good and hate evil, being in the flesh, being human, I find myself enslaved by sin. I want to do right, but in my flesh, I know there is nothing good. I want to do what is right, but bad things always seem to be the result of what I do. I just can’t seem to do what is right. I realize that, if I do what I do not want to do, that’s sin. It is not my real desire to do it, but it is sin that lives in me. Why? Because I’m in the flesh.”

You know, if we’re honest, that is what happens to us as well, and that’s what’s going on in our lives. Paul the apostle wrestled with that, and he’s trying to tell these people that he’s writing to, and he’s writing to us as well, that there are times when we just can’t seem to overcome.

Now, notice in verses 21-23, Paul says this: *²¹I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²²For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.*

Paul is saying here, “What I find is a law of good and evil that is always with me,” verse 21. He says, “I delight. I have joy in God’s law

that is for the inward, the spiritual man,” verse 22.

John 3:6 says, *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* We’ve been born of the Spirit. Paul says, “There is a conflict between my mind and my body, the sin of works in my body, holding me prisoner. I am made prisoner because of sin,” he’s saying here.

And notice this in verses 24-25 that there’s a question and the answer. Paul says, *²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵Thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*

Now, he’s not giving permission to sin here. He’s simply stating a fact. He’s saying, “Who can deliver me from eternal death, the result of sin? Only God through Jesus Christ can deliver me from this body and my soul that is dying because of sin.”

In I Corinthians 15:55-57, it says, *⁵⁵O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* And that’s what Paul is telling us back in the book of Romans in chapter 7 here. He’s telling us that we can be and are delivered from the body of death by and through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the One Who has saved us. He’s the One Who is going to make it possible for us to go to Heaven.

Now let’s look in chapter 8 of the book of Romans. The two objectives that I see here and we’re going to look at today through our studies of this chapter are these. First, we see it’s to appreciate the place of the Holy Spirit that the Holy Spirit has in the lives of

Christians and, secondly, to realize the extent of God's love toward us.

Now in summary in chapter 7, Paul described the dilemma of man who becomes a prisoner of the law of sin, which is in the members of his body. In the last five verses, Paul made reference to the hope of liberation made possible by God through Jesus Christ.

In this chapter 8, Paul amplifies on the freedom from sin found in Christ. First, for those in Christ who are walking according to the Spirit, there is no condemnation for sin for the death of Christ for sin has set us free from the law of sin and death by fulfilling the requirement of the law. And that's found in verses 1-4.

Now, in chapter 8, verses 1-17, we see that in Christ there is freedom from sin. In Romans 8:1-4, let's look at verses 1-2 right now. It says, *¹There is there now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* This tells me that there is freedom from the condemnation of sin, and that freedom is available to those in Christ and it's made possible by the law of the Spirit of life, according to Romans 8:1-2.

And then I see in verses 3-4 there's freedom from the condemnation of sin. It says there, *³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* An accomplishment not attained by the law but by the death of Christ is what Paul is saying here. The law cannot take us to Heaven. We cannot live successfully in this life as people trying to go to Heaven. You

cannot *try*. You must *know*... you must *believe* Jesus Christ is your Savior in order to have victory in this life.

Now, once again, let me remind you that Paul says there is a warfare going on and as long as we're in this flesh, we're going to have problems. If someone tells you that when you get saved everything is a bed of roses, that person is not telling you the truth. That person does not know what the Bible is teaching. The Bible teaches us that there is a spiritual warfare that goes on in our lives and we'll read later on that one of the ways that we overcome this is to study the Word of God.

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We're to put on the whole armor of god. We're to study. We're to show ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth. And I believe that's where we look to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ. He gives the victory, but we need to realize that victory. And we can realize that victory as we study the Word of God.

Now, next time, we're going to pick up in Romans chapter 8 and we'll start with verse 5. We'll see that there is freedom from the power of sin.

But do you know Him today as your Savior? The first way that we have freedom is by asking Jesus to come into our hearts. He says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life and no man comes to the Father but by me"... or "but through me." And He says, "Take my yoke upon you. It's light." In other words, when we get saved, God does not put more on us than He puts within us. He asked us to do certain things for Him to bring honor and glory to Him, and that's what we need to do as Christians is to bring honor and glory to our Heavenly Father.

Do you know Him today? Ask Him to come into your heart. And the Bible says that if you'll do that, if you'll trust Him, He'll make it possible. He'll make it sure that you're on your way to Heaven. Remember, the thief on the cross said, "Lord, remember me," and Jesus said, "Today you're going to be with me in Paradise. You're going to be safe with Me today."

Let me remind you that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

It's been good being with you today and let me also remind you to also listen in next time when you'll hear me say it is a good life. May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.