Welcome!

- ✓ *Grab a cup of coffee and breakfast.*
- ✓ *Say hello to someone you don't know.*
- ✓ *We'll gather at 10:20am.*

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GOODNEWS CHURCH GA

Preparing our Hearts for Worship

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.”

- The Apostle Paul (1 Timothy 1:15)

THE BOOK OF

ROMANS

"THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH"

chapter 7



Themes

CH. 1-3 Depravity, Justice, and Grace

CH. 4-5 Faith – Origins and Impact

CH. 6-7 Living in Grace – motivation, frustration, and salvation

Last Week

“Through faith in Christ, you are a new amazing creation with a new beautiful identity, a new way of deeply satisfying life, a new loving authority, and a new confident and joyful hope of eternal life.”

Purpose

The primary purpose of today's message from Romans 7 is *to discover how to be encouraged, hopeful, and victorious, in spite of our propensity to screw it up bigtime.*

Context

As a result of Justification by Faith, we have received 1) Peace with God 2) Purpose in Suffering 3) Poured out Love 4) Perfect Representation, and we are now “slaves set free” - dead to sin and raised to new life *SO THAT, we will walk in newness of life.*

Romans 7:1-2, 4-6

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? 2 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 that binds her to him.

4 So, my brothers and sisters, 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 for God. 5 For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 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.

1. Set Free to Serve (vs. 1-6)

When we were married to the Law, we were bound to the Law, and our sinful passions were aroused by the Law bearing fruit to death. But now that we have died to the Law, we are released from the Law that bound us and set free to serve God in the power of His Spirit.

Romans 7-8, 11

7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.” 8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead.... 11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

2. The Law is Good (vs. 7-13)

The Law is not bad. It's good! If it weren't for the Law, we wouldn't be able to identify our sin. But sin, being exposed to the Law, was like gasoline on that fire. As soon as my flesh heard, "Don't," it was aroused to want to "Do!" My flesh, being aroused to sin (thinking it would bring life and satisfaction), tricked me and brought death and destruction. Was the good Law responsible for my death? No! It was sin that used the Law to deceive and put me to death.

Romans 7:14-15, 18-20, 24-25

14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. … 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

3. Powerless (vs. 14-20)

Even though my flesh has been put to death, I am still impacted by its lingering effects. God has given me a new heart that desires to please Him and do His will, but the effects of sin still often win out over my desires. And I hate it! I hate that the very thing I don't want to do, I do. I hate that the things I do are not what I want to do. I am constantly grieved in my heart

because my actions and my desires are so often out of alignment.

I know that it’s not the new me (living by the Spirit) that does these things but the lingering effects of the old me (the flesh). Whereas previously, I was completely enslaved to my sinful desires, now I’m in an all-out war, of which many of the battles are lost. In my Spirit, I rejoice in God’s Law, but in my actions (and flesh), I still give into sin.

Romans 7:24

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?

4. Despairing (vs. 24)

I’m SO frustrated almost to the point of despair. “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” (vs. 24) What can I do? How can I win this battle?

PURPOSE: How can I be encouraged, hopeful, and victorious in day-to-day life, in spite of our propensity to screw it up bigtime?






AMAZING GRACE
Gary



5. Powerful (vs. 25)

Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Blessing

Revelation 1:5b-6

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father —to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.