

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION (if time allows and there is interest):

Romans 7:15-24 is a passage that is viewed by Bible teachers differently. It is not necessary to present all the views but there is what I will call a *majority view* and *another view*.

Majority View: *Post-salvation*

Romans 7:15-24 is most commonly understood as a struggle Paul was going through in his life, as a Believer, between the old nature and the new nature. It is viewed as a Christian trying to live the Christian life “in the power of the flesh” instead of relying on the Holy Spirit.

Another View: *Pre-salvation*

I personally hold this view. I believe that Paul as a Believer is looking BACK at the struggle he experienced ***as an unsaved man*** with the Law revealing his sinful condition and bringing him to the place of crying out to God for salvation.

To help us understand the second view, ***please read carefully*** Romans 6:1-11 & 17-22 and ***compare*** it with these statements in Romans 7:

Vs. 14 — “I am flesh **sold into bondage to sin**”

Vs. 19 — “I ***practice the very evil*** I do not wish”

Vs. 23 — “making me a ***prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members***”

Based upon Romans 6:1-11 & 17-22, are the above statements true of a saved man? Why? Why not?

How does Galatians 3:21-25 help us understand this second view better?

NOW DISCUSS ...

The Value of the Law TODAY!

Romans 7:7-25

In our last study from Romans 6 & 7 we learned that Believers today are “not under the Law” but under GRACE. This is a freeing truth, but in our freedom we DO NOT have the licence to sin (not even once!). Rather we are FREE to “serve” God and “bear fruit” (the life of Christ) for God through the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 7:4, 6).

But, whenever a study about our freedom from the Law comes up questions arise such as:

- a. Is there a problem with the Law? Is it sin? (7:7)

Answer: NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT!

- b. Is the Law gone — obliterated?

Answer: NO! ABSOLUTELY NOT! (7:12) (1 Tim. 1:8-11)

Jesus said He DID NOT come to abolish the Law, but fulfil it (Matt. 5:17).

- c. If NOT, Is there any VALUE of the Law today?

Answer: YES, ABSOLUTELY!

I. LET’S BLAST BEFORE WE BUILD! What the Law cannot do!

1. The Law cannot bring _____!

Romans 3:28 —

Galatians 2:15-16 —

2. The Law cannot produce an “acceptable” _____ before God!

- **Matthew 5:20** — Jesus on the importance of acceptable righteousness!
- The apostle Paul understood the Law’s deficiency to produce an acceptable righteousness.

Philippians 3:6, 8-9 —

Galatians 2:21 —

II. LET'S BUILD! What the Law DOES!

1. The Law _____ sin! 7:7

The Law identifies EXACTLY what SIN IS! We are without excuse about what God calls SIN.

- The Law _____ the _____!
- It leaves NO ROOM for _____!

Romans 3:19-20 —

2. The Law _____ to sin! 7:8-11

The Law does not _____ sin, it provokes us to sin!
Again, the problem is NOT THE LAW, IT IS **THE SIN** in our fleshly body!

What is meant by “THE sin”?

“The Sin” (vs. 8, 9, 11, 13, 17, 20, 21) is that _____
of _____ in our body,” our _____, our sinful
_____.

Note: The **Law** does not draw a person into **SIN**, but **THE SIN** uses the Law to provoke rebellion (i.e., sin).

Paul's personal experience: vs. 9-11

When was Paul “alive apart from the Law”? (vs. 9)

Answer: A time in his early childhood when he did not recognize himself as a sinner. A time before he knew the Law's demands and considered himself as doing “okay” before God.

What happened when “the Sin” and Law came face to face?
Paul said, “I died!” (9-11)

3. The Law brings us to see our _____ of a Savior! 7:12-25

In these verses Paul is writing as a believer about his life **BEFORE** he was saved. **He's looking back to show how God used the Law to bring him to Christ.** It brought him to cry out “wretched man that I am ...” (vs. 24) **and** “thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!! (25).

In these verses we see how the Law became his _____ to bring him to Christ (Galatians 3:21-25).

SUNDAY SCHOOL DISCUSSION NOTES

Please take a little time to prepare for a discussion of this message in Sunday School next week.

REVIEW & THINK ABOUT:

1. Read Romans 7:7-25 several times to refresh your mind with this passage **BEFORE** you come to Sunday School.
2. Was there a particular truth from this passage that impacted you as you listened to the message? What?

DIGGING DEEPER:

1. Pastor Ron pointed out that the Law cannot produce an acceptable righteousness before God and used Paul as the example (Philippians 3:6, 8-9).
 - Read the following passages and answer the question, how can our RIGHTEOUSNESS exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees and be “acceptable”?
Philippians 3:8-9 —

Galatians 3:27 —

2 Corinthians 5:20-12 —
2. Read 1 Timothy 1:8-11. Based upon what we have learned in Romans 7:7-25 what do you think is the “lawful” or “right” use of the Law today?
3. Pastor Ron pointed out from Romans 7:7-11 that the Law DOES to more things. What were they? How was this seen in Paul's life, and how is it seen in your life?