

# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

## Romans 7

### Lesson 8

#### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What insight did you receive from the lesson or lecture last week about being set free from sin?
2. Have you ever wondered, as a believer, what your relationship to the Law of Moses is? The church in Rome was confused over this issue. Many were trying to live under the standards of the law in order to prove themselves worthy of a relationship with Jesus.

In Romans 7 Paul used the example of marriage to illustrate the Christian's relationship to the law. Like a critical first husband, the law presided over and identified all our faults. All attempts to please this first husband ended in abject frustration. No matter how hard we tried to obey and please him, our personal weakness and inability to consistently and constantly do what is right caused us to fail! When Jesus came into our lives, our first husband (the law) died. We are no longer committed to trying to please and live up to his standards. Now, our aim is to please our gracious Jesus. As we live in Christ, the Holy Spirit works His righteousness in and through us. Use the passages below to contrast life under the law with our new life in Christ Jesus:

- a. Romans 7:1-6
  - b. Romans 7:7-12
  - c. Romans 7:13-19
  - d. Romans 7:20-25
3. Ask God to open your eyes this week to the wonder of being set free from the law through Christ Jesus!

*You have been married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead,  
that we should bear fruit to God.*

Romans 7:4

**SECOND DAY:** Read Romans 7:1–6

1. In Romans 6:14 Paul established that the believer is *not under law but under grace*. In Romans 7:1 what did he ask those who *know the law*?
  - a. As an illustration of this fact, Paul cited the law concerning marriage. Briefly summarize this *law* from Romans 7:2–3.
  - b. What happens *if her husband dies*? Romans 7:3b
2. Paul explained his illustration in Romans 7:4 (NLT). *So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And 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.* Comment on the blessing of being *united* to Christ.
  - a. Link this with Romans 6:5–8. What do you see?
3. From Romans 7:5–6 describe and comment on our condition:
  - a. *When we were in the flesh*
  - b. *When we were delivered from the law*
    - (1) What stands out to you most from this contrast?
4. Why is our relationship to Jesus superior to being under the *law*? See Hosea 2:19–20.

**THIRD DAY:** Read Romans 7:7-12

1. Having declared the believer's death to the *law* and freedom in Christ, Paul anticipated that one might conclude that the *law* is *sin* (Romans 7:7a). However, *on the contrary*, what did Paul declare? Romans 7:7b
  
2. Paul explained this truth about the *law* in Romans 7:7c-11 (NLT), *I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet." But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power. At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life, and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead. Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.* Use this passage to answer the following questions:
  - a. How does the *law* expose sin in our lives?
  
  - b. Why is the *law* not able to *bring life*? See also Romans 3:20.
  
  - c. What does this passage reveal about human nature?
  
3. From Romans 7:12 record Paul's conclusion concerning the *law*.
  - a. Use Psalm 19:7-9 to highlight the *good* benefits of the *law*.
  
4. Connect your study today with Galatians 3:24-25. What was the ultimate purpose of the *law*?
  
5. Share a way the *law* has led you to Jesus.

**FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 7:13–19**

1. After declaring the *holy and just and good* character of the *law* in contrast to our sinful nature, Paul further explained in Romans 7:13 (NLT), *But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.* From your observations of life what is the *terrible* reality of *sin*?
  - a. How does the *law* prove how sinful our nature is?
2. According to Romans 7:14, what do we *know* about:
  - a. The *law*
  - b. Ourselves
3. In light of this, Paul described the struggle between what we *will to do* and what we actually *do*. Read Romans 7:15–19 (NLT). *I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it. And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.* Describe the two sides of this struggle in the chart below:

What I want (spiritual)	What I do (carnal)

- a. How does Paul's plight describe anyone who tries in their own strength to *do what is right*?
  - b. Share a way you have seen this principle at work.
4. Use the following Scriptures to underscore how Christ's power works in us to defeat sin:
    - a. 2 Corinthians 5:21
    - b. Ephesians 3:20
    - c. Philippians 2:13

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Romans 7:20–25

1. C.S. Lewis said, *No man knows how bad he is until he has tried to be good*. This is the struggle Paul identified in Romans 7:20. Paul recognized that the source of this struggle was *sin* that dwelt in him. Because of this, what did Paul *find* in himself? Romans 7:21
2. According to Paul, why was he unable to obey the *law* he loved? Romans 7:22–23
  - a. Why is it not enough to *delight in the law*? See Romans 2:13.
3. The word *wretched* in Romans 7:24 literally means *wretched through the exhaustion of hard labor*. With this in mind, how do you relate to Paul's exclamation in this verse?
  - a. What does this convey about our struggle with sin?
4. Print the solution to this struggle from Romans 7:25a.
  - a. Link this with the following verses to remark on our deliverance through Christ:
    - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:56–57
    - (2) Hebrews 12:1–4
5. From Romans 7:25b describe Paul's summary of our condition.
6. Express your thanks to God for His deliverance from the power of sin.

## SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Capitalizing on Paul's marriage illustration in Romans 7, use your imagination to find several adjectives that describe:
  - a. The *law* as your first husband
  - b. Jesus as your forever Husband

*Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!*  
Romans 7:24-25