

GOLDEN TEXT: ROMANS 8:2 (KJV) “ FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. ”

Law and Liberty

Study Outline:

Romans 7:1-6; Galatians 5:1-6

Romans 7:7-13

Romans 7:21-8:4; Galatians 5:13-14

Freedom from Legalism

Purpose of the Law

Made Available by Grace

If you will explore Romans 7 and 8, then you will see one of the most beautiful explanations of how that we have passed from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant, and how that we have passed from the Curse of the Law to the Liberty of Grace.

One of the greatest imbalances in Christianity is the unbiblical idea that we can somehow be justified in God's eyes by doing enough good works. It is getting the cart before the horse. **IT ISN'T THAT WE DO GOOD WORKS AND THINGS TO BE RIGHTEOUS, BUT BECAUSE JESUS HAS MADE US RIGHTEOUS, THEN GOOD WORKS COME FROM OUR LIVES.**

One of the greatest dangers that came from the earliest Jewish believers is **that they did not want to let go of the Old Mosaic Covenant, even though Jesus Christ had fulfilled it** and that they now had a better covenant with God with better promises through faith in Jesus Christ. It is hard to let go sometimes of the traditions that we have been raised in. But Jesus came to give us liberty from the curse of the Law.

This continues to be a real problem in understanding, for many today **FALL INTO PRIDEFUL SELF-RIGHTEOUS LEGALISTIC PRACTICES** thinking that they can somehow earn their way to heaven. **WE ACTUALLY EARN HELL, BUT HEAVEN IS A GIFT OF GOD.**

I. FREEDOM FROM LEGALISM

A. **An Illustration from Marriage**

**ROMANS 7:1-3 (KJV) “1 KNOW YE NOT, BRETHREN, (FOR I SPEAK TO THEM THAT KNOW THE LAW,) HOW THAT THE LAW HATH DOMINION OVER A MAN AS LONG AS HE LIVETH?
2 FOR THE WOMAN WHICH HATH AN HUSBAND IS BOUND BY THE LAW TO HER HUSBAND SO LONG AS HE LIVETH; BUT IF THE HUSBAND BE DEAD, SHE IS LOOSED FROM THE LAW OF HER HUSBAND.
3 SO THEN IF, WHILE HER HUSBAND LIVETH, SHE BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER MAN, SHE SHALL BE CALLED AN ADULTERESS: BUT IF HER HUSBAND BE DEAD, SHE IS FREE FROM THAT LAW; SO THAT SHE IS NO ADULTERESS, THOUGH SHE BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER MAN. “**

You are bound to your spouse by the Law until death (unless that marriage bond is destroyed by adultery by the way). God intended marriage be until death, so this is a good illustration to use here for it was understood both by Jews and Gentiles.

ANY LAW CAN ONLY BE BINDING OVER THE PERSON UNTIL THEY ARE DEAD. The wife whose husband dies is then free from that first marriage and can remarry, and the opposite is also true. That marriage covenant died at the spouse's death, so there is no adultery if they remarry.

THE POINT: Believers have died to the Law of Moses through Christ. Actually Colossians speaks of having the handwriting of ordinances that was against us nailed to His cross and Jesus paid the price for that, and a death occurred.

COLOSSIANS 2:13-14 (KJV) “ 13 AND YOU, BEING DEAD IN YOUR SINS AND THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR FLESH, HATH HE QUICKENED TOGETHER WITH HIM, HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES; 14 BLOTting OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS; “

ROMANS 6:2 (KJV) “ GOD FORBID. HOW SHALL WE, THAT ARE DEAD TO SIN, LIVE ANY LONGER THEREIN? “

B. **Freedom through Death**

ROMANS 7:4-6 (KJV) “ 4 WHEREFORE, MY BRETHREN, YE ALSO ARE BECOME DEAD TO THE LAW BY THE BODY OF CHRIST; THAT YE SHOULD BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER, EVEN TO HIM WHO IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THAT WE SHOULD BRING FORTH FRUIT UNTO GOD.

5 FOR WHEN WE WERE IN THE FLESH, THE MOTIONS OF SINS, WHICH WERE BY THE LAW, DID WORK IN OUR MEMBERS TO BRING FORTH FRUIT UNTO DEATH.

6 BUT NOW WE ARE DELIVERED FROM THE LAW, THAT BEING DEAD WHEREIN WE WERE HELD; THAT WE SHOULD SERVE IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT, AND NOT IN THE OLDNESS OF THE LETTER. “

Just as the legally binding marriage is dissolved at death, so are we become **DEAD TO THE LAW** by the body of Christ. **This is powerful!** We were so then married or bound to the Law and its condemnation, **but now we have died to the Law to be raised again a new creation in Jesus Christ and now under a New Covenant of Grace.**

Our strength from our flesh only works sin. That is the sad, sad truth. The Law only reveals the righteousness of God and the unrighteousness of mankind. It reveals sin and thus brings the force of the curse to bear in our lives. **The Law brings the penalty of sin to us.**

ROMANS 7:4-5 (AMP) “ LIKewise, MY BRETHREN, YOU HAVE UNDERGONE DEATH AS TO THE LAW THROUGH THE [CRUCIFIED] BODY OF CHRIST, SO THAT NOW YOU MAY BELONG TO ANOTHER, TO HIM WHO WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD.

5 WHEN WE WERE LIVING IN THE FLESH (MERE PHYSICAL LIVES), THE SINFUL PASSIONS THAT WERE AWAKENED AND AROUSED UP BY [WHAT] THE LAW [MAKES SIN] WERE CONSTANTLY OPERATING IN OUR NATURAL POWERS (IN OUR BODILY ORGANS, IN THE SENSITIVE APPETITES AND WILLS OF THE FLESH), SO THAT WE BORE FRUIT FOR DEATH.”

We once belonged to the Law of Moses because of sin, but we have undergone death as to the Law through Jesus' own body who was given for us. HE took our place and took our sin upon Himself. **SO BECAUSE THAT HE TOOK OUR SIN UPON HIMSELF AND DIED, WE CAN BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD!**

The motions or actions of sin which were by the Law did work in our lives and bodies to bring fruit unto death. **REMEMBER, SIN ALWAYS BRINGS FORTH DEATH WHEN IT IS FINISHED.**

Before, we had no choice for the sin in us was a bondage that brought unrighteous fruit that led to death. Without the Spirit of God in us revealing Jesus, the carnality of the flesh brings the works of the flesh and the resulting death. **BUT BECAUSE GOD HAS SET US FREE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OF THE CURSE OF THE LAW, THEN WE ARE FREED TO BEAR RIGHTEOUS FRUIT UNTO GOD (THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT) INSTEAD!**

We obey the commandments or law of God not because it is a way to be righteous, but because God has made us righteous under grace and given us the power to live righteously.

It is a result of the **power of grace** working in our lives that we have a **TRANSFORMED LIFE** and the good works of God coming forth. **It is God in us that brings the good.** We love Him now and that love and grace gives us the power to keep His commandments.

We are NOT LAWLESS, but we have passed from the Law of Moses under the Old Covenant which was finished in Christ at the cross (which we had no way of keeping in ourselves) to the Law of the Spirit in Christ (which gives us the grace to keep through the Holy Spirit).

ROMANS 7:6 (ALT) “ BUT NOW WE WERE RELEASED FROM THE LAW, HAVING DIED IN [THAT] BY WHICH WE WERE HELD, WITH THE RESULT THAT WE SERVE AS SLAVES IN NEWNESS OF SPIRIT [OR, OF [THE] SPIRIT] AND NOT IN OLDNESS OF LETTER. “

We have been released or discharged from our bondage or covenant of the Law because it was the OLD MAN who was married to it. But now, the NEW MAN is raised up and quickened in the Spirit through Jesus Christ and is married to Jesus Christ instead!

The Old Man (nature) of sin served the oldness of the letter of the Law. But the New Man in Christ serves the newness of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Covenant revealed the righteousness of God and cursed us because we had no power to really live it. Mankind was constantly failing because the seed of sin was in his blood (flesh) and passed down through the fathers to the children. It takes being literally born again of the Spirit to be given the power of God to overcome the sinful nature and bring righteous fruit that is pleasing to God.

You and I cannot take credit for the fruit of the Spirit for it comes from the Spirit and is a result of God's work in our lives. Just give Him the glory for it and continue to walk in harmony with the Spirit.

C. Freedom through Christ

GALATIANS 5:1 (KJV) " STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY WHEREWITH CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE, AND BE NOT ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH THE YOKE OF BONDAGE. "

The Galatian Church is a vivid example of a church that started well in faith and the power of the Holy Spirit, but was corrupted by legalism and traditionalism after it was established. There were those there who were in literal peril of being entangled again in the bondage of the Law and sin and losing the liberty that God had given to them. This was ~~deadly~~ serious.

COMMANDMENT: STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY WITH WHICH THE MESSIAH HAS MADE YOU FREE (Peshitta)!

We are commanded to stand fast in the work that Jesus has done in us. It isn't enough for the Lord to do the work in us, **BUT WE ARE COMMANDED TO STAND FAST IN THAT WORK OF GOD WHICH HE HAS DONE IN US AND NOT TO TURN BACK** (a kind of anti-repentance) to the Old Covenant and the CURSE that goes with it.

We are literally made free from the bondage of sin and the Law, **and going back to that is to be "entangled" or to be twisted into a trap of bondage.** It would be like a slave who was doomed to death being given their liberty only to voluntarily going back to his former slave master and making himself a slave again. **It is not the wisest thing to do.**

IT IS HOWEVER SOMETHING THAT "FEELS" COMFORTABLE TO THE FLESH, AND THAT IS THE DANGER. The flesh is still unredeemed (and shall be until the Day of Redemption at the Catching Away of the Church/1st Resurrection), and when we try to be "religious" in our flesh then it is easy to fall back to the slavery of legalism. **BUT IT IS A TRAP!**

THIS IS A DECISION. To stand fast is to continue in your faith. It isn't enough to have an initial faith, **but you have to follow through and stand fast or the enemy will use legalistic religion to pull you out of the place of grace and blessing and into a self-righteous Pharisaic position** that goes back to the Law and Tradition.

Understand this: the Law of Moses was a schoolmaster to lead mankind to Jesus Christ and the New Covenant. The Mosaic Law was fulfilled and finished in Jesus Christ on the cross. It is over, and we cannot be under both the Old and New Covenant at the same time. **TO EMBRACE THE OLD IS TO REJECT THE NEW AND SAY THAT GRACE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST IS NOT ENOUGH.**

D. Freedom through Choice

**GALATIANS 5:2-6 (KJV) “ 2 BEHOLD, I PAUL SAY UNTO YOU, THAT IF YE BE CIRCUMCISED, CHRIST SHALL PROFIT YOU NOTHING.
3 FOR I TESTIFY AGAIN TO EVERY MAN THAT IS CIRCUMCISED, THAT HE IS A DEBTOR TO DO THE WHOLE LAW.
4 CHRIST IS BECOME OF NO EFFECT UNTO YOU, WHOSEVER OF YOU ARE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE.
5 FOR WE THROUGH THE SPIRIT WAIT FOR THE HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH.
6 FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILETH ANY THING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION; BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE. “**

IF your righteousness is based in outward circumcision, then what is the point in having faith in Jesus Christ? Why did God’s only begotten Son, the living LOGOS/WORD of God take on flesh and live a sinless life and go to the cross, and take your and my sin upon Himself and DIE and RAISE AGAIN if we could be righteous if the Law of Moses and outward circumcision was enough?

God would have wasted His Son’s life if that is true. Jesus wasted His time and threw away His life for NOTHING IF THE LAW OF MOSES WAS ENOUGH!

It sounds good to the flesh and feels good to the flesh that you are doing something to earn righteousness and salvation, but IT IS A LIE.

GALATIANS 5:2-3 (ALT) “ 2 LISTEN! _I_, PAUL, SAY TO YOU* THAT IF YOU* ARE CIRCUMCISED, CHRIST WILL NOT BENEFIT YOU* AT ALL. 3 NOW I TESTIFY AGAIN TO EVERY MAN BEING CIRCUMCISED, THAT HE IS A DEBTOR [FIG., HE IS UNDER OBLIGATION] TO DO THE WHOLE LAW. “

Paul is trying to get your attention... mark my words, or lo, or here listen is used. You had better take notice to what is being said here. To you who are being circumcised thinking that it makes you righteous, you will find that Jesus Christ will not be any benefit at all to you!

You are not saved. You can only be saved by Jesus Christ. The Law looked ahead to Jesus and the cross, but once Jesus went to the cross then the Law was finished. It can’t do anything for you anymore.

The Law of Moses was temporary and looked forward to Jesus Christ. The Law has its authority in the Covenant in which it is given. We are now under the New Covenant, and the Law of the Spirit given to us by the commandments of Jesus that was handed to us by the Apostles in the New Testament. **IT IS THE SAME GOD, BUT A NEW COVENANT OF GRACE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Once you give into a Judaizer to be circumcised under the Law or give into any of the Mosaic commandments, **then you take yourself back under the Law and faith in Jesus Christ does you no good. YOU BECOME A DEBTOR TO THE WHOLE LAW.** That becomes a curse.

GALATIANS 5:4-6 (AMP) “ 4 IF YOU SEEK TO BE JUSTIFIED AND DECLARED RIGHTEOUS AND TO BE GIVEN A RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD THROUGH THE LAW, YOU ARE BROUGHT TO NOTHING AND SO SEPARATED (SEVERED) FROM CHRIST. YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE (FROM GOD’S GRACIOUS FAVOR AND UNMERITED BLESSING).

5 FOR WE, [NOT RELYING ON THE LAW BUT] THROUGH THE [HOLY] SPIRIT’S [HELP], BY FAITH ANTICIPATE AND WAIT FOR THE BLESSING AND GOOD FOR WHICH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD [OUR CONFORMITY TO HIS WILL IN PURPOSE, THOUGHT, AND ACTION, CAUSES US] TO HOPE.

6 FOR [IF WE ARE] IN CHRIST JESUS, NEITHER CIRCUMCISION NOR UNCIRCUMCISION COUNTS FOR ANYTHING, BUT ONLY FAITH ACTIVATED AND ENERGIZED AND EXPRESSED AND WORKING THROUGH LOVE. “

This is fairly frightening when you weigh carefully what is really being said. **YOU HAVE FALLEN FROM GRACE.** Some claim that you cannot do that, but Paul is pretty explicit here. If you go back to the Law and become a legalist to try and be righteous, then you have fallen from grace!

The Greek word for fall is ekipto, which is to fall from a thing, to lose it, or to perish, or to fall.

LIVING BY FAITH operates and is empowered by the working of LOVE. We are to keep ourselves in the love of God. **JUDE 1:21 (KJV) “KEEP YOURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD, LOOKING FOR THE MERCY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST UNTO ETERNAL LIFE.”**

So, you can have the LOVE OF GOD through faith in Jesus Christ and the blessing of Grace, or you can have the Curse of the Law by falling away from grace into Legalism.

II. PURPOSE OF THE LAW

A. Produces Awareness of Sin

ROMANS 7:7-8 (KJV) “7 WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN? IS THE LAW SIN? GOD FORBID. NAY, I HAD NOT KNOWN SIN, BUT BY THE LAW: FOR I HAD NOT KNOWN LUST, EXCEPT THE LAW HAD SAID, THOU SHALT NOT COVET.

8 BUT SIN, TAKING OCCASION BY THE COMMANDMENT, WROUGHT IN ME ALL MANNER OF CONCUPISCENCE. FOR WITHOUT THE LAW SIN WAS DEAD.”

ROMANS 7:7-8 (AMP) “7 WHAT THEN DO WE CONCLUDE? IS THE LAW IDENTICAL WITH SIN? CERTAINLY NOT! NEVERTHELESS, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE LAW, I SHOULD NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED SIN OR HAVE KNOWN ITS MEANING. [FOR INSTANCE] I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN ABOUT COVETOUSNESS [WOULD HAVE HAD NO CONSCIOUSNESS OF SIN OR SENSE OF GUILT] IF THE LAW HAD NOT [REPEATEDLY] SAID, YOU SHALL NOT COVET AND HAVE AN EVIL DESIRE [FOR ONE THING AND ANOTHER]. [Exod. 20:17; Deut. 5:21.]

8 BUT SIN, FINDING OPPORTUNITY IN THE COMMANDMENT [TO EXPRESS ITSELF], GOT A HOLD ON ME AND AROUSED AND STIMULATED ALL KINDS OF FORBIDDEN DESIRES (LUST, COVETOUSNESS). FOR WITHOUT THE LAW SIN IS DEAD [THE SENSE OF IT IS INACTIVE AND A LIFELESS THING].”

The Law is not evil. The Law is not sin. The Law is not bad. But the Law exposes our sin and God's righteousness, but gives absolutely no way to be righteous ourselves. **THE LAW OF MOSES WAS A TEMPORARY MEASURE TO HOLD US UNTIL JESUS CAME.**

The law was helpful to Paul in understanding what sin was and how evil that it truly was. Oh, that we would have the same understanding and attitude toward sin that God has. The law of God (both under the old and new) reveals God's holiness and how far sin departs from God.

You have to know that something is “wrong” before you know that you need to do something about it. When you understand that there is but one penalty for sin, and that is death, then sin becomes something to be hated and avoided.

The problem with the LAW is that it aroused and stimulated the natural man's desire for forbidden things. It literally had the opposite effect that you might expect simply because of the sinful nature of man's fallen state. It literally told us about sins that we should not do, and just as telling a small child not to do something; there is something within him that wants to reach out and do it just because of that.

This is why taboo things are so desired by sinful flesh. You know better and you know that it is going to get you into trouble, and without God in your life to help you then you will probably continue to step into deeper and deeper lusts throughout your life depending on whatever your personal weaknesses are. **But they are weaknesses and they cause great harm.**

If these things were not wrong and against God's Law (His will and commandments), then they would not be nearly as desirable. It is the fallen nature of man that wants to rebel.

B. Produces Death

**ROMANS 7:9-13 (KJV) “ 9 FOR I WAS ALIVE WITHOUT THE LAW ONCE: BUT WHEN THE COMMANDMENT CAME, SIN REVIVED, AND I DIED.
10 AND THE COMMANDMENT, WHICH WAS ORDAINED TO LIFE, I FOUND TO BE UNTO DEATH.
11 FOR SIN, TAKING OCCASION BY THE COMMANDMENT, DECEIVED ME, AND BY IT SLEW ME.
12 WHEREFORE THE LAW IS HOLY, AND THE COMMANDMENT HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD.
13 WAS THEN THAT WHICH IS GOOD MADE DEATH UNTO ME? GOD FORBID. 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. “**

There was a point where Paul lived in ignorance and did not understand what sin was really doing to him. But once the commandment came and he knew the law of God, then sin revived or came alive and he died. **HE LITERALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS SPIRITUALLY DEAD BECAUSE OF SIN.**

The commandment, which shows the holiness of God, literally revealed the sin in our lives and brings us into the understanding that we are dead in our sins. Sin brings death and is the cause of death.

Verse 11 is interesting, for it shows the pure impotence of the Law to save. It in fact just brings home the fact that sin is in our lives and that sin is killing us. John 10:10 talks about the thief coming to steal, kill, and destroy. He does this through sin.

ROMANS 7:11 (RECOVERY VERSION) “ FOR SIN, SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH THE COMMANDMENT, DECEIVED ME AND THROUGH IT KILLED ME.”

QUOTE: “The law is the instrument through which sin deceives and kills men. The power of sin is the law (1 Cor. 15:56). This fact should warn us not to turn to the law to try to keep it for in so doing we give sin the opportunity to deceive us and kill us.” – Witness Lee from the Recovery Version Bible Notes

Sin uses “the Law” to deceive us. The Law is holy, but it is used by sin to deceive us. **It literally causes us to sin more when we know that something is wrong.** The Law has no power at all to help us to live right. It simply reveals that God is right and that we are wrong.

The Law is holy, but powerless to help us to live right. It just brings condemnation because it reveals our shortcomings and evils. Without the operation of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we are all wicked.

SIN IS THE CAUSE OF EVIL IN OUR LIVES. It isn't the Law of God that is itself evil. God's commandments are holy. **Many people want to silence the gospel and God.** They don't want to have their hearts convicted of their sin. They feel like if the commandments of God are silenced, then they can just sin with no problem. **THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS THAT IT IS THE SIN ITSELF THAT IS THE EVIL AND IT IS WHAT IS KILLING US.**

III. LAW OF THE SPIRIT**A. Life Under the Law**

**ROMANS 7:21-25 (KJV) “ 21 I FIND THEN A LAW, THAT, WHEN I WOULD DO GOOD, EVIL IS PRESENT WITH ME.
22 FOR I DELIGHT IN THE LAW OF GOD AFTER THE INWARD MAN:
23 BUT 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.
24 O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! WHO SHALL DELIVER ME FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?
25 I THANK 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.**

Here is the conflict between what we want to do and what we really wind up doing. Here is the conflict of wanting to be holy and righteous, but always having this carnal side rise up and causing sin. Here is a law working within us that Paul is exposing.

ROMANS 7:21-23 (AMP) “ 21 So I find it to be a law (rule of action of my being) that when I want to do what is right and good, evil is ever present with me and I am subject to its insistent demands. 22 For I endorse and delight in the law of God in my inmost self [with my new nature]. [Ps. 1:2.] 23 But I discern in my bodily members [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh] a different law (rule of action) at war against the law of my mind (my reason) and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in my bodily organs [in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh]. “

I want to do right because of my new nature in Jesus Christ for my soul has been redeemed. But I find this conflict within me because my flesh has not yet been redeemed or changed, and when I want to do right there is this evil always trying to rise up.

The new nature which is led by the Spirit wants to delight in the Law of God, **but within my body are these appetites for evil** and I find this rule of life that **they are always at war in my mind** and I have to deal with this evil in my body continually. It is a battle that rages in my life.

O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM! I think that this is something that we can all relate to when we think about past failures when you thought you were doing well and then sin rose up in you. This body of this death is something that we have to deal with until the Lord takes us out of here. **But it does not have to rule us! Know that, it does not have to rule you or your actions.**

You have these two natures within you. The one from God wants to serve God and be holy. But the carnal flesh still wants to sin. The Law of Moses revealed this problem, but gave no solution to it.

Here comes the solution found in the New Covenant, and the New Law that is connected to the New Covenant. Remember, we are not lawless. That is the spirit of antichrist.

B. **Life According to the Spirit**

ROMANS 8:1-4 (KJV) “ 1 THERE IS THEREFORE NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO THEM WHICH ARE IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT. 2 FOR THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS HATH MADE ME FREE FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. 3 FOR 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: 4 THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH, BUT AFTER THE SPIRIT. “

The question was asked in the last chapter of who would deliver Paul from this power that the sinful flesh has over him. **THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS THAT JESUS CHRIST ON THE CROSS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF THE SINFUL FLESH.** It does not have to rule us. But we can walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. **GALATIANS 5:16 (KJV) “ THIS I SAY THEN, WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YE SHALL NOT FULFIL THE LUST OF THE FLESH. “**

There is now no more condemnation or sentence of damnation to them which are “in Christ Jesus”, who walk not after the flesh but after the spirit.

THOSE LIVING IN SIN ARE WALKING AFTER THE FLESH. THOSE CAUGHT IN A LEGALISTIC TRAP TRYING TO KEEP THE LAW OF MOSES OR TRADITIONS ARE ALSO WALKING AFTER THE FLESH. The Law revealed the sin of man, but man was still in the flesh and caught under the condemnation.

BUT BEING “IN CHRIST JESUS” CHANGES EVERYTHING. It is all about a walk of faith in being in Jesus. We are in Christ, and that brings us **UNDER THE NEW COVENANT AND THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT** that is under the authority of the New Covenant. This covenant was so important, that God sent His only begotten son to become human flesh to die so that His own blood would cut it.

John 3 tells us that we must be born again by the Spirit, and this lets us know that the believer in the New Covenant walks after and follows and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. **This makes the difference between just knowing what is right, and being empowered to do what is right.**

There are two laws, and both of them came from God. One was given to Israel through Moses and was to reveal the righteousness of God to them and through them to show the world who Yahweh is. The second one is given by God’s Messiah and Son, Jesus and given down to us by his Apostles.

Being under one Law takes away hope and brings death, and being under the other one brings hope and gives life.

EACH LAW IS BASED ON THE COVENANT THAT WAS GIVEN EACH TIME. The Mosaic Law had its time, but it was a temporary measure until the more spiritual Law of Grace would come through Jesus Christ. **The law of sin and of death is the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament.** **THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS IS THE KINGDOM GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST** that Jesus authorized with His own blood.

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and of death.

We are free, and any who would try to take you back into legalistic ideas of the Old Testament that are not brought into the New Testament are trying to take you back into sin and death. It is a curse.

Remember in Galatians 5, we learned that if we are to go back under the Law of Moses, then we fall from grace and make Christ of none effect. The opposite is true here. To be ‘in Christ’ is to be free from the Law and the power of sin over our lives.

The Law of Moses could not make us righteous because it was weak through the flesh. But Jesus Christ took on the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin in the flesh. He overcame sin. He overcame the devil. He overcame the curse. **The Law was satisfied and His death paid the penalty.**

We, who once had no way of being righteous in our own flesh, **now through Jesus has the righteousness of God fulfilled in us** who walk after the Spirit in faith of Jesus Christ.

It is a faith walk that takes getting full of God’s Word (the commandments), and prayer and submission to that word that the Holy Spirit can reveal Jesus in us and bring the fruit of the Spirit. This brings the walk in the Spirit that keeps us from falling prey to the sin of the flesh.

Jesus told us that if we love Him that we would keep His commandments. 1 John tells us that if we live and practice sin then we are not born of God and are of the devil. **But there is power to live as a Christian through faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

C. **Law of Love**

GALATIANS 5:13-14 (KJV) “ 13 FOR, BRETHREN, YE HAVE BEEN CALLED UNTO LIBERTY; ONLY USE NOT LIBERTY FOR AN OCCASION TO THE FLESH, BUT BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER. 14 FOR ALL THE LAW IS FULFILLED IN ONE WORD, EVEN IN THIS; THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. “

We have liberty from the slavery of sin. We have liberty from the condemnation of the Law of Moses. We have liberty to live the abundant life of God!

Some want liberty to be able to sin without remorse. **They need to be saved**. Their hearts are not right to begin with. Liberty is not an excuse to let flesh sin rampantly, **BUT LIBERTY IS THE ABILITY TO BE FREED FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN THROUGH THE FLESH THAT KEEPS US FROM BEING GODLY.**

Love is really at the center of a real believer in Jesus Christ. **The liberty of the Spirit allows us to love and serve one another**. To the extent that you love others and are willing to be their minister is the extent that you have submitted to God, and truthfully it is how spiritual that you are.

The Law is fulfilled in this commandment, that we love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Do we?

If we are walking and being led by the Spirit, then we will.