

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Romans 7

Review

One of the difficulties a teacher always encounters with complex subjects is being able to get across the concepts to the student in a way that it is clear and understandable. Peter said, **2Peter 3:15-17**: *15. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord (with us) is salvation (for us); even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16. As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. 17. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.* In order to understand the scriptures, one must spend some time daily studying and seeking the Lord for understanding. Otherwise, how will you know the error of the wicked? In the experience of the Apostolic Church, the “wicked” were those among them teaching error (1Jn 2:18-19; Acts 15:1-2, 5).

Romans chapter 7 is key to seeing that there are two views of the law - one view, which is the deceptive one, derived through eyes of the human nature, and the other is the spiritual view as revealed by the spirit of Christ. There are three key verses which play off the example of the 10th commandment: 1) **Romans 7:14**: *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.* The understanding of the law comes by listening (Rom 10:17; Gal 3:2) to the spirit, not by reading. Anyone reading the Bible to determine the spiritual meaning is interpreting the law through a carnal way of thinking. How do I know that for sure? Because God’s wisdom, knowledge and ways are beyond mankind’s ability to search it out (Rom 11:33-34, reference to Isa 40:13-14). We search the scriptures, but we go to Jesus for the understanding of them, something Jewish scholars did not do (Jn 5:38-40).

2) **Romans 7:11**: *For [the] sin (nature), taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.* This verse fits well with 14, as the carnal mind is controlled by the sin nature. 3) **Romans 7:6**: *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* (literally = writing). We ARE NOT delivered from keeping the law, but deliver from keeping it according to men’s understanding, which is the spiritual death wherein we have been held captive. But now we are learning to serve in the newness of the spiritual understanding of the law, as we partake of the spirit of life in Jesus (Rom 8:2).

Romans 7:12: *Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.* What law is holy? Is it referring to the writings, we call the Bible? No! Look again at verse 14: *For we know that the law is spiritual.* It is the spiritual law that is holy; it is God’s explanation of the writings. Men cannot even agree on what the literal writings mean. Why? Because they are not listening to the Holy Spirit. They understand the Bible based on an incorrect understanding of the Father, Son and holy spirit.

Additionally, if the law has no place in our lives, or if any part of it was abolished, why would Paul say that faith establishes the law (Rom 3:31)? The faith that saves us comes from Jesus (Gal 2:16 KJV only), and not man, and so does the understanding of the Bible. The righteousness of God (or, right thinking) does not come by the law

(Gal 2:21), but the law is a witness to it (Rom 3:21). The inheritance (of a holy spirit - Gal 3:14) does not come by law, but by the hearing of the faith of Christ (Gal 3:2-5, 12; Rom 10:17). You will not hear these things from the religious majority, as only a remnant ever walks in the light of truth in every generation (cf 2Ki 19:30-31; Ezr 9:8; Neh 1:3; Isa 1:9; 10:22; 11:11, 16; Jer 23:3; Eze 6:8; 14:22; Joel 2:32; Mic 4:7; Zep 3:13; Rom 11:5).

Romans 7:4: *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law...* Based on the discussion above, what does it mean to be *dead to the law*? The next verse gives a clue: **Romans 7:5:** *For when we were in the flesh, the [passions] of [the] sin (nature), which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.* Passions are strong feelings based on thought, in this case corrupted thinking. Before becoming dead to the law, our fruit was unto death. Fruit is the result of that which has been planted, as works are a result of what we believe: **Galatians 2:16:** *Knowing that mankind is not justified (made righteous) by works of law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ...* (more accurate to the original language). When operating with fleshly thinking, we are dead to spiritual things and yet consider self to be alive to Christ. When we understand and apply spiritual concepts, we become dead to law-keeping as man understands it, and do as God understands.

2Timothy 3:15-17: *15. And that from a child thou hast known ^(G1492) the holy ^(G2413) scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17. That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.* This verse is quoted often to prove that the Bible is holy and the writings should be obeyed as they read. The Hebrew word (*qodesh*^{H6944}) rendered most often as “holy” is from a root (*qadash*^{H6942}) meaning to be clean. The word “holy” does not apply to things as being clean, but to character, or a way of thinking, which we know to be only from God. The Greek word *hieros*^(G2413) would be better translated *sacred, consecrated*, meaning something set apart by God for our use and which applies to the Bible. From a child, Timothy perceived with the mind^(G1492) by understanding spiritual things from the writings (law). Again, the Bible is not holy, as pertains to character, but is set apart to the world as a book of instruction, and which God has to interpret for us. Holiness is in the way God thinks, it is His righteousness.

Romans 7:14, 25: *14. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.... 25. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the (spiritual) mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh(ly understanding), the law of sin.* The law is spiritual, and the natural man does not think that way. So through Jesus Christ and by His power we serve the Father with Christ’s way of thinking. **2Timothy 2:7:** *Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things - not man, but Jesus Christ give you the understanding you need to walk in the light of love.*

Colossians 1:9-13: *9. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10. That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the [God’s knowledge]; 11. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12. Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us [able] to be partakers of the inheritance (of a holy spirit - Gal 3:14, 18) of the saints in light (God’s knowledge): 13. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness (man’s knowledge), and hath translated us into the kingdom (spiritual understanding) of his dear Son: Amen.*