

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
ROMANS

Lesson 9

The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God:
SANCTIFICATION from the LAW
(Romans 7:1-25)



A key event in Old Testament – and the reason it is *called* the Old Testament – was the giving of the Law to Moses.

Exodus 24:12

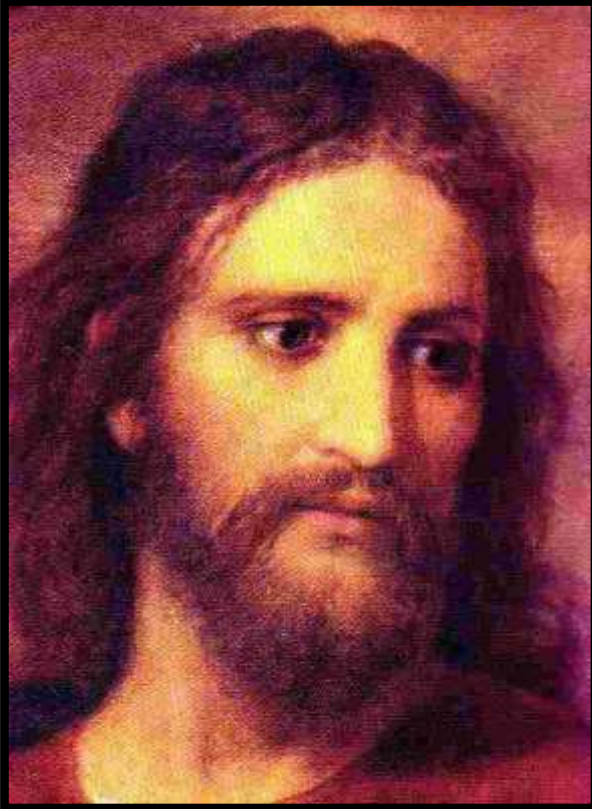
¹² And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them.



Keeping the Law of God separated the children of Israel from the pagan world.

Joshua 22:5

- ⁵ But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.



But the coming of Christ changed things in ways the prophets of old could not imagine.

John 1:17

¹⁷ For the law was given by Moses,
but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.



God gave Paul the words to explain the change that had occurred.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION	(1:1-17)
(1) The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
(A) Condemnation: The Need for God's Righteousness	(1:18 to 3:20)
(B) Justification: The <i>Imputation</i> of God's Righteousness	(3:21 to 5:21)
(C) Sanctification: The <i>Demonstration</i> of God's Righteousness	(6:1 to 8:39)
1) Sanctification and Sin	(6:1-23)
2) Sanctification and the Law	(7:1-25)

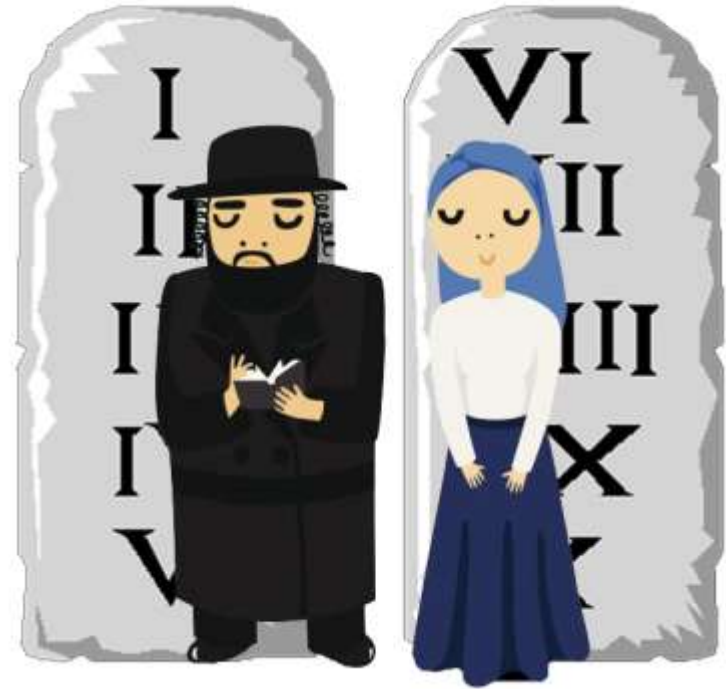
To show how Christ freed the Jews from their obligation to the law of Moses, Paul compared **the covenant of the law** to **the covenant of marriage**:

In his analogy, the law is the husband and the Jews are the wife.

Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:1

- 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?



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:2

² For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth;



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:2

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.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:3

- ³ So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress:



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:3

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.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:4

4 Wherefore, my brethren,
ye also are become dead to the law
by the body of Christ;



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

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ye also are become dead to the law
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that ye should be married to
another, even to him who is raised
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Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:4

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.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

The Jews' first covenant was with the Law.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Now being dead to the law,
their new covenant is with Christ!



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:5-6

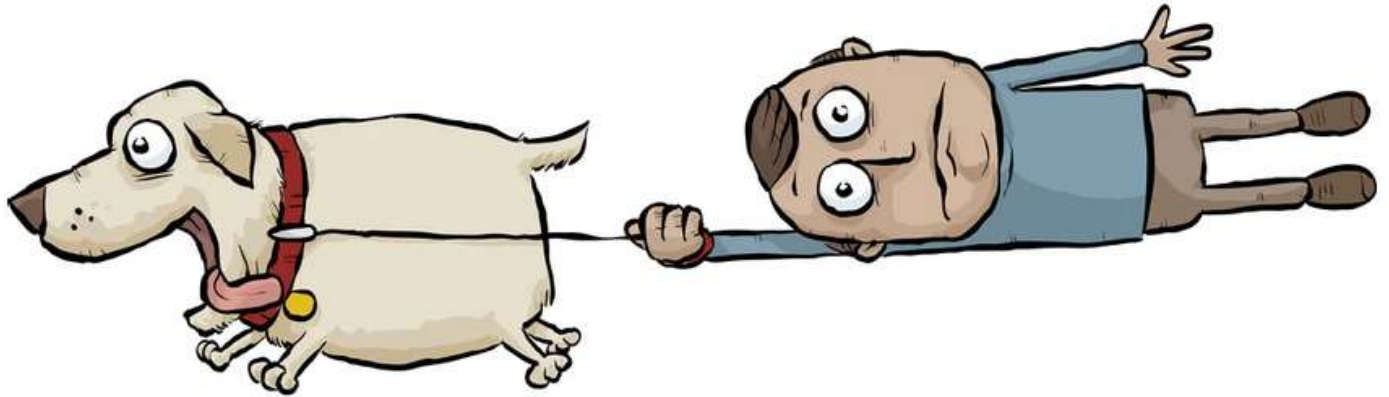
- 5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.
- 6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

Speaking to the Jews who have accepted Christ (because the Gentiles never were subject to the law of Moses) Paul declared their deliverance from the old covenant.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

When we were living only to please ourselves, our sinful lusts (which fought against the law of God like a dog on a leash) pulled us toward destruction.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

But now we are free to follow a higher law in the newness of life in Christ.



Romans 7:7

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.

Once again, Paul will prove his argument with questions:

The first question:

Since we needed to be delivered from the law, does that mean the law was sin?



Romans 7:8

⁸ But sin,
taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of
concupiscence.

For without the law sin *was* dead.

But sin used the commandment to
stir up all kinds of sinful desires in
me.



Romans 7:8

⁸ But sin,
taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of
concupiscence.

For without the law sin *was* dead.

(I was never tempted to steal until I read, “Thou shalt not steal.”)



Romans 7:8

⁸ But sin,
taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of
concupiscence.

For without the law sin was dead.

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

ἐπιθυμία (epitumia)
a desire for what is forbidden,
lust.



Romans 7:8

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taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of
concupiscence.

For without the law sin was dead.

GENEVA BIBLE NOTES

“Though sin is in us, yet it is not known as sin, neither does it rage in the same way that it rages after the law is known.”





You never know how out-of-shape you are until you start exercising.

Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:9-11

- 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*.

You never realize the power of sin until you try to resist it.



Before I learned the commandments,
I thought I was a good person.

Before I learned the commandments,
I thought I was a good person.

But after I learned the law ...





I saw that I was infested with sin.

Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:12

¹² Wherefore the law *is* holy,
and the commandment holy, and just,
and good.

So, “Is the law sin?”

No, the law is not sin. It *exposes* sin.
It just cannot *cure* sin.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:13

¹³ Was then that which is good
made death unto me?

This leads to a new question:

Since we now understand that the
law was not sinful, but good,

... was this good thing used to
destroy me?



Romans 7:13

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.

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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.

The law exposed the deadly power
of sin.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:14-16

- ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual:
but I am carnal, sold under sin.
- ¹⁵ For that which I do **I allow not:**
for what I would, **that do I not;**
but what I hate, **that do I.**
- ¹⁶ If then I do that which I would not,
I consent unto the law that *it is good.*

The fact that *my own heart* urges me to forsake sin proves that the law is good.



Sanctification and the Law (7:1-25)

Romans 7:17-20

- ¹⁷ Now then it is no more I that do it,
but sin that dwelleth in me.
- ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:
for to will is present with me;
but how to perform that which is good I find not.
- ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not:
but the evil which I would not, that I do.
- ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Paul will now write about the conflict between the *carnal* man and the *spiritual* man – the two natures wrestling within every person who belongs to Christ.



Romans 7:17-20

- ¹⁷ Now then **it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**
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Notice that this passage begins and ends with the same phrase.



Romans 7:17-20

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- ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:
for to will is present with me;
but how to perform that which is good I find not.
- ¹⁹ For the good that I would I do not:
but the evil which I would not, that I do.
- ²⁰ Now if I do that I would not, **it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

This is not an *excuse* for sinning.

This is the *reason* for sin's continual influence in our lives.





Serve
Christ!

Serve
Sin!

The Inner War

Paul speaks on behalf of every believer who recognizes the two opposing natures wrestling within himself.



The Inner War

Romans 7:21-23

- 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.



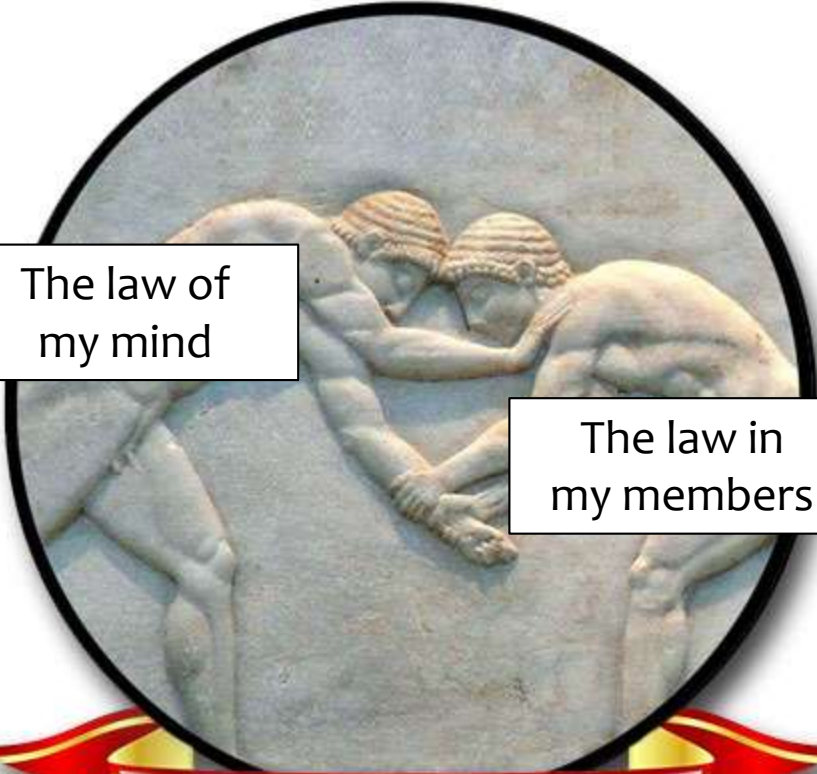
The law of God

The law of sin

The Inner War

Romans 7:21-23

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The law of
my mind

The law in
my members

The Inner War

Romans 7:21-23

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The law of God urges
me on to holiness.



Romans 7:21-23

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- ²² For I delight in the **law of God** after the inward man:
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The law of sin reminds me of my defiled condition.

Romans 7:21-23

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- 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.



The new man wants to soar with Christ. The old man is chained to his sins.

This is the “wretched” condition we must contend with as we struggle to walk in righteousness in this life.

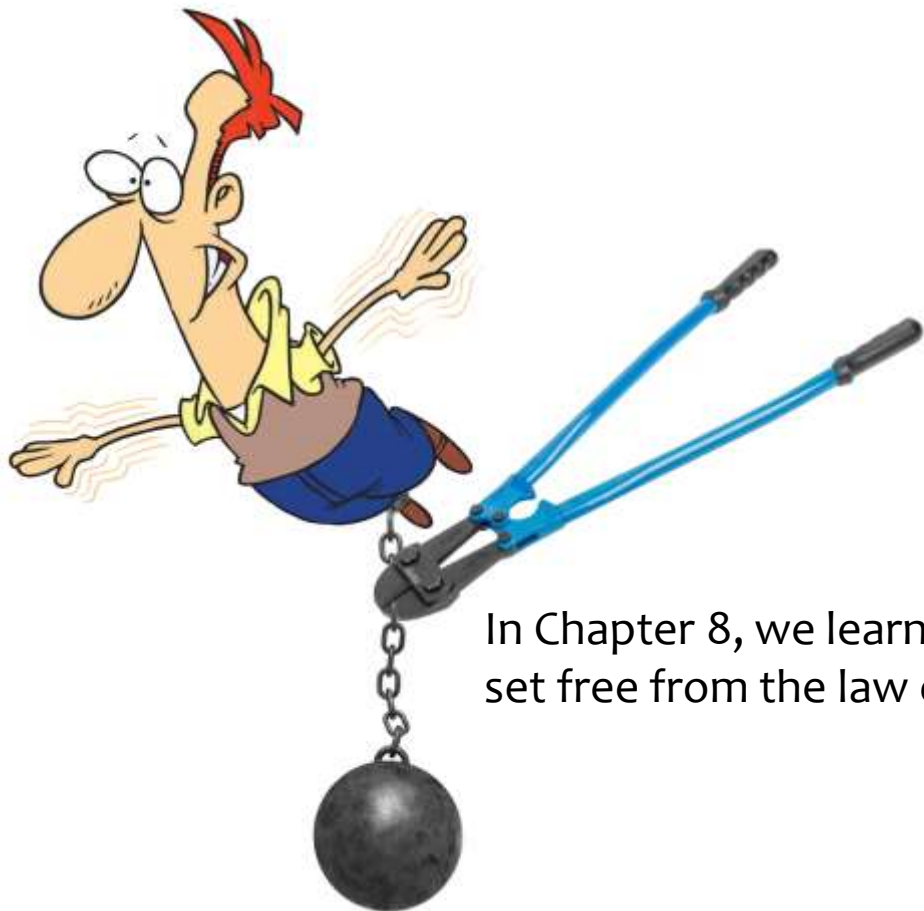


Romans 7:24-25

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.



In Chapter 8, we learn how we have been set free from the law of sin and death.

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3) Sanctification and the Spirit	(8:1-39)



UP NEXT

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. In the Old Testament, what separated the Jews from the unbelieving world?
2. To show how Christ freed the Jews from the Law, Paul compared the covenant of the Law to the covenant of _____.
3. In Romans 7:1-4, who is the wife? Who is the first husband? Who is the second husband?
4. What happened to the first husband?
5. What is the question and answer in Romans 7:7?
6. What are the two sides of a man talking in Romans 7:20?
7. What phrase begins and ends Romans 7:17-20?
8. In Romans 7:21-23, "the law of God" is also called "the law of _____."
9. In Romans 7:21-23, "the law of sin" is also called "the law in _____."
10. In Romans 7:24, Paul calls himself a _____, but in verse 25, he sees his victory through _____.

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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