

ROMANS 7 PART 3 STUDY GUIDE

- **Study and understand the teachings of Romans 7 in context to avoid misinterpreting its message.**
- **Recognize that the law was put away and that Christians are not justified by it.**
- **Embrace the truth that justification is by faith in Christ and not by the law.**
- **Seek to live according to the leading of the Holy Spirit, rather than striving to produce fruit through the law.**
- **Take time to read and study verses 1 through 6 of the book to understand the foundation of Paul's doctrine.**

TRANSCRIPTS

Continuing in Romans seven, we're gonna read these last 10 verses and be done with this entire chapter. Let's recap just a little bit what we learned in the first two sessions. We learned that in the first two sessions, that we died to the law and the body of Christ that God died in the, in the, in represented in Christ, we died represented in Christ.

And the law itself was put away, right? Because Christ is the embodiment of the perfect law in Colossians. We see that it's an ironclad, this law is put away and that the partners, the covenant partners in this God in us, both died to free us from this law. We saw that this law isn't what we think it is. We, we saw that this law actually brings knowledge of sin.

It does, but it also arouses the sinful passions of the flesh within us and that it, it can be deceptive in nature because it looks good, it looks holy and it's right. And in fact, it is perfect, holy and right. But we, there's something wrong with us and it's, it's the flesh within us that's made alive. That's, that's reactivated, even though it was made of no effect on the cross, we reactivate it by going back to the law for holiness.

We're deceived because we think once saved, we can go back to the law to produce fruit to God. When the only way we can do that is through the spirit, through this new man, this new nature, right? When we walk according to the spirit, when we walk according to this, the the the movement and the voice of the spirit within us, we bear fruit to God and we are trying to do it the other way around.

We are trying to do it by being saved and going back to this law for holiness. And in doing so, we produce a striving, striving struggling Christian that hates sin and yet is living in it. And as we read these next 10 verses or so, these verses are not in controversy yet. They are

so misused to describe what Christian life should be like. That's how they, that's how they're being used.

I've heard them preached many, many, many times and never once have I heard them preached rightly in context to what's being said in Romans seven. And that's why it's so important that we look at Romans seven because Romans seven is the culmination of the first six verses where Paul is describing in detail that you cannot be justified by the law, you cannot live this way, justification by the way isn't really, isn't righteousness, right?

Righteousness is right standing before God. We did that in a prior teaching. Justification is being innocent before God. Those are two different things. Context is what makes them different. So we want to be saved with Christ, right? But then we want to be innocent. We want to live this innocent life and we cannot go back to the law for this justification.

Justification is done by faith. We receive a verdict of innocence by the work of Christ. He is our justification, right? He lives a perfect life. We are represented in Him. And when he dies on the cross, he takes as a divine exchange. He takes our sin, we take his position before God, which is both righteous and justified. He kept the perfect law.

He represents us before the Father. Why? Because He took my sin, right? And I took His righteousness, his justification. And now God sees me as righteous and justified. We cannot return to the law to find it. And believers who live that way will have inner turmoil because the flesh is still there with us. Now, it's made of no effect on the cross.

But when we bring the law back, it revives. And as we look at these last verses, we're gonna see that when we teach them wrong, it can have the effect of making you believe that this, I I've heard this before that the Christian life is hard, right? Pick up your cross and follow me all verses taken out of context. And we'll teach on a Simian one day

when we talk about redemption, hopefully do that in the next couple of months about how actually a man will carry that cross, right?

It, it, it isn't about the Christian life being hard and that it's something we suffer through. But this life is supposed to be a life of freedom. It's supposed to be a life of peace, of hope, all of the fruit of the spirit. I don't see stress and anguish and toil in that life. In fact, what I see in the redemptive work is that Christ is undoing those curses.

So the to teach it, to teach these verses that we're gonna look at in a way that signals that this is the way that your life is going to live is totally flawed. But not only that we must omit then all those scriptures that say that the life of the believer is one of peace, inward, peace, inward hope. And that when trials do come and they will come, right, when failure comes and it will come, that God is using all those things to produce something good.

God works all things together for good, for those who love him and are called according to his purpose. It doesn't say all things are good when the world goes through troubles, it's to destroy them. When we go through struggles, we have peace because we know those struggles produce in us, perseverance and perseverance, character and character.

Hope and hope is the precursor to faith. The Bible says that faith is the evidence of things hoped for. So we have a different view of struggle when it comes. But if we're struggling with sin, there's a different problem and we need to be honest and that it isn't the devil who is pushing and pressing on us like we think, and we're trying to cast out devils and look for devils in all things.

The devil needs not be concerned about us. If we are causing the problem, if we are the ones going back to the law, the devil can step aside, right? Why would he fight an enemy who's losing? So we need to be honest with this because sin is a problem in the church. I'm concerned about sin. I know you're concerned about sin. So the

remedy that God gives us for sin, we need to take sincerely and we need to look at it honestly.

So let's continue in Romans seven. And we're gonna look at verse 14. Actually, let's go back up to to 13, right? It finishes in 12. So then the law is perfect. It's commandments are wholly and right. We agree with that. Nothing wrong with the law. I'm not speaking against the law. I agree and the, I agree with the law and for the purpose of the law wholeheartedly.

But that law was never meant to make you perfect holy and right ever. So 13 says, did that which is good then become death to me, right? We just agreed that that's not true. Certainly not. But in order that sin might be exposed to sin, it produced death in me through that which was good so that through the commandment, sin might become utterly sinful.

14, we know that the law is spiritual but I am unspiritual sold as a slave to sin. Let's stop here for a second. I used to say this thing when I was at work, I used to work in law enforcement. And I would say the good thing about criminals, right was that they're playing checkers while I'm playing chess and, and, and maybe that was self indulgent.

But I used to, I used to think that that was true and I, I still think that that's true. But why, why is this important? Because this is what it's saying, I'm on spiritual. I'm playing checkers. The law is spiritual. It's playing chess. This thing that's happening with the law in my flesh is happening at a spiritual level and we are trying to manage it according to the flesh, right?

Because according to the outward expression, I don't want to sin. But according to right? But inwardly, inwardly, there's a spiritual law that's taking a place. The law is spiritual, it has a spiritual power to it. And my flesh recognizes that power and it acts out in sin. It's not

something we put down carnally. It is, the flesh cannot war against the flesh.

You cannot muster enough fleshly strength to stop sin. We have to do it spiritually. And that's what this verse is saying. It says we know that the law is spiritual, but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do for what I want to do. I do not do but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I admit that the law is good.

In that case, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. Now, we can say that. Well, this is just the experience of the believer. It's the experience of the believer under the law. That's the context. I, I want to do good. That thing that I just said. It creates a striving and struggling in the other sessions. It creates a striving, struggling Christian.

I don't understand it. It's deceived me. I want to do good. I agree with the law of the Lord yet when I try to accomplish it, their sin is with me. It starts to work through me in a way that is, I don't understand it because I'm operating right out of the flesh. The law is spiritual, but I am unspiritual Let's go to the next verse 18. I know that nothing good lives in me that is in my flesh.

We know the scripture for. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out again in the flesh. That's the context. There's nothing good that lives with me inside the flesh, in the flesh. I desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out for. I do not do the good I want to do. Instead I keep on doing the evil that I do not want to do. And if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

This is not the experience, the the experience that we should have. But rather it's the experience that we have when we are under the law. And if, and if I'm explaining it right? In a very human sense, what I'm saying is that the believer wants to get out of sin but doesn't seem to

be powerful to do it. There's no power within you to do it. The flesh cannot war against the flesh.

And when we try it that way, we have this experience, I want to do right? I agree that this is right. I look at the law and I see that it's perfect and I want to apply that law to me. But something else is happening there's another work at play. And so Paul's gonna say so this is the principle I have discovered being under the law, OK? Being a Christian who's operating according to the flesh.

When I want to do good, evil is right there with me for in my inner being, I delight in God's law. Again, he's talking about the law. This is not the experience of the spirit led believer, but rather of the lawful believer. But I see another law at work in my body warring against the law of my mind and holding me captive to the law of sin that dwells within me.

This is the experience, inner turmoil, inner struggle. When we are under the law to the Christian who is now having a new spirit and a new nature. You are a new creation in Christ. Yet you have returned to the old law, the old covenant and your flesh has revived and there is an inner struggle, a war that is raging in your mind, in your inner being, you want to do right?

But I seem powerless to do it. This is the problem and we need to be honest. Instead of explaining these scriptures have they explained many, many, many times that this is just, it's the, it's part and parcel of being a Christian that there's a struggle to it and you gotta fight through it day by day by day by day that creates worn out, beaten down, broken Christians that is not the life that God wants you to have.

Absolutely not. What a wretched man I am who will rescue me from this body of sin and death. And he's gonna give credit where credit is due. Now, what body of sin and death is he talking about? All of the, the verses that we read in Romans seven. That is the description of a

believer who is caught, right? He's caught in this body of sin and death. He cannot separate himself from the flesh because he has returned to the law.

And he's gonna say thanks be to God, to Christ Jesus, our Lord. And this last verse is probably the worst offender when it comes to being used wrongly because it seems like he's saying it sums it up that this is the way it is rather than summing up that this is the experience that he has, right? He's concluding this entire chapter. The last verse, last part of 24 is going to say so then with my mind, I serve the law of God, right?

I still look at that law and say that it's good that it's right. I agree with it in every verse that he says is the, is this law sin? No, it's absolutely not sin. If the law, I agree with the law, he agrees with the law for the reason it was given. But in my mind, I agree with it, right? But with my flesh this is the flesh, the the the the thing that is activated by the law.

I learn, I serve the law in. Understand this is true that when my mind agrees with the law of the Lord, right? And I try to accomplish it in my flesh, my flesh is serving the law of sin. So I can look at that law and say that it's perfect. It's commandments are holy and right. And I can agree that by the law comes, the knowledge of sin, I can agree that the law arouses the sinful passions of my flesh.

But if I try to govern this flesh with that law, it obeys the law of sin. That's what he's saying. And it has to be in context. This whole chapter is paramount to the Christian walk and to the Christian life because many Christians, many, many Christians sadly are trying to live Christianity this way. We know that's what he's saying because of the very next verse which we all love.

And I hope that you have this hidden in your heart. In Romans 8:1, it says there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death. And in Romans eight, he's going to lay out how

that works in Romans seven. He's describing the problem in Romans eight. He's describing the solution if you live this way, my friends hear me out.

If you live this way and you have an internal battle going on within you. If you have a struggle of outward abounding sin, it is because you have put yourself under the law that God made no effect in the body of Christ. You died to it. You were separated from it and you were alive. Once when that happened in the moment that you were saved, you became alive separate from this, from this body of sin and death.

Separate from this covenant. The law was made of no effect. If the flesh was put down, it was not operating and then something happened, right? Something happened. We really believed, we really believed and some Christians still really believe that when you got saved, God somehow empowered you to keep this law. The problem is this law is spiritual and it is unchanging.

The law cannot be the law. If it bends to give you mercy, the law is rigid. The law is absolutely rigid. The law cannot apply grace to itself. It cannot, it describes God's justice. It's his perfect justice. And there was only one man who could keep that perfect law and his name is Jesus. And we identify with him because he kept that law. And it's, it's an amazing thing because when we say that God came to accomplish, Christ came to accomplish the law and not dismantle or destroy the law.

Do you know why? That's true. He does it because there are many blessings, many promises that we all love from the old testament for the man who can keep that law. Now, that law, that man was always him, that man, the man who could keep that law was always him. And through the new covenant, right? When we accept this new covenant idea, it's a covenant of son by inheritance, our new, our new federal Authority of Christ, right, which is in this teaching catalog, you can go look at it.

He is gonna keep this perfect law like Adam did not keep the law of God, only a single law, right? Don't eat of the tree and by inheritance. He passed down sin and death to all mankind. Christ by keeping this law, he fulfills the law. He passes down all the blessings. Adam passed down a curse. Christ passed down the blessings. We should say what blessings.

Well, if we go back to the law, we'll find many blessings for the one who keeps this law. Well, Christ kept this law and based on federal authority and a feed a federal headship, he passes down an inheritance of all those blessings to us. We should be thankful that Jesus doesn't come to abolish that law, but to fulfill it because in His fulfilling, remember I said that if you have a car payment and you pay on that car, once that car is paid off and the the debt is fulfilled, you stop paying

on it and you enjoy owning the car. Well, it's the same for us. Christ has fulfilled the payment for us right now. We enjoy, we enjoy the blessings of keeping the law just like the person would enjoy the blessings of owning that car. You drive it in theory for free. Right. Mine is some expensive. But you understand what I'm saying? You enjoy the benefit.

It, it is, it is a blessing from paying the car off. You no longer have the stress of paying it. You never have the burden of wondering if I don't work this month or I get sick of the car is still mine. Well, if you're working to keep the law, you're under the curse of the law which is dynamic and oppressive, which we haven't talked about yet, but not just that you feel the weight of keeping it, you want to keep it, but my flesh is working against me.

But when I receive the blessings of it being fulfilled, I am no longer under stress to keep it. And that does not produce by the way sin or licentiousness, the Bible makes it really clear that sin shall not have Dominion over you because you are under grace and not under the

law. If that verse is true, the inverse of that true is of that verse is just as true.

Meaning this, that if you are under the law, sin shall have Dominion over you because you are not under grace. It doesn't make common sense. I understand that. I understand that it is, it is outside of the realm of our natural mind and our natural instincts to say that we could take this perfect law and set it aside. But the reason I'm telling you this is because we want to set the stage for this new covenant, we must set the old aside that the new can come in and govern us differently.

True freedom, true freedom comes from not having this inward struggle. God loved you so much that he sent his son for this plan. And the Bible talks about how the wisdom of this world becomes of nothing, right? When we apply human logic to this, we say it doesn't make sense, but we're talking about spiritual things, spiritually speaking, the law has power over you as long as you submit yourself to it, as long as you are alive to it.

If you agree that you are dead in the body of Christ, and you agree that the law has been made of no effect, we will destroy the act of sin. I should say Christ destroys the act of sin and we agree with it. And what you're gonna see is you will sin less. You're not ever gonna be perfectly sinless. But the passions of the sin will go away. Agree with this meditate on this.

Think about this. When I pray, this is the prayer, I pray, I say God, I thank you that you took my sins at the cross, that you died to the law and made it no effect on me. Therefore, I can be free to serve you and to produce fruit unto you. That is effortless. That is not something I'm working towards. And it's a proof of my salvation. This the, the, the evidence of it.

The works I do now are proof of my salvation rather than trying to show myself approved in those ways by, according to the law, I

approve myself a different way. Now, according to the spirit, I hope these teachings blessed you. I hope that you'll listen to them over and over to catch the message that's inside. And I hope that you would take time at some point to read verse or chapters one through six that you could see that Paul is building this doctrine up until he gets to seven where it

culminates and he comes up with a solution and then we're gonna move on to chapter eight in the next couple of sessions. And we're gonna look at how the spirit begins to operate in us