

## SERMON: ROMANS CHAPTER 7

[SLIDE 2] The title of the sermon today is “ROMANS CHAPTER 7.”

- We’re going to go through Romans Chapter 7 verse by verse.
- Again, Romans is not an easy book to understand so we slow down and study it verse by verse.
- When you do, it will be one of your favorite books because you’ll see how it disproves every religion around here.
- False preachers can’t understand the book of Romans.
- They pick and choose verses out of context without understanding the entire chapter and book.

What have we learned so far in the Book of Romans?

- The Apostle Paul wrote the book.
- Gentiles are condemned in Chapter 1 of the book.
- Jews are condemned in Chapter 2 of the book.
- We learn that if you follow the law YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, you can save yourself.
- But chapter 3 tells us that ALL HAVE SINNED. So everyone is condemned who has ever lived.
- No one has done right their entire life from start to finish. NO NOT ONE.

***[SLIDE 3] Romans 3:9-12 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

Due to this fact, your goodness or your righteousness DOESN’T get you to heaven!!!

- There are NONE good. That means you’re in the NONE GOOD category. I’m in the NONE GOOD category.
- You don’t have an exemption because your church or religions says that you’re good.
- God says, “YOU’RE NOT GOOD.” Why? Because HE created the word “GOOD” and good is perfect.
- If you’re never going to be good enough to get to heaven, how are you going to make it?
- The end of Chapter 3 tells us this:

***[SLIDE 4] Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.***

- In other words, FAITH ALONE justifies you. FAITH is your belief on Jesus to save you.
- You’re justified by FAITH without doing any of the deeds of the law.
- It says, “WITHOUT THE DEEDS OF THE LAW.” This means you need to do nothing else to be saved.
- BUT HAVE FAITH ON JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE YOU. Churches say different. Religions say different.
- Who are you going to trust? GOD’S WORDS IN HIS BIBLE or the words of some false preacher.
- You either SAVED by Jesus ALONE or you’re not saved.
- If you think it takes something else besides the sacrifice that JESUS made, then you’re not saved.
- When you put 100% FAITH ON JESUS, that’s the moment you’re saved.

So, since you’re SAVED by faith alone, is God’s law important to follow?

- This is what the Book of Romans is teaching us. It’s answering that question for us.

***[SLIDE 5] Romans 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.***

- The answer is right there. We don't GET RID OF THE LAW that God gave us.
- WE ESTABLISH THE LAW. We do what HE ASKS US TO DO!!!
- How do we know what to do? We follow the Bible. We follow VALID laws and commandments from God.
- We don't follow made-up rules by some church, religion, school.
- "If you don't get on your knees every night and confess your sins, you're going to hell!!!"
- "If you wear pants, you're going to hell!!!" OR "Cut your hair and you're going to hell!!!"
- God has rules we should follow, but once you're SAVED, you're not going to hell.

So, can we just ignore what He tells us to do since we're going to heaven?

- Oh, you can, but get ready for HIM to punish you in this life.
- God has chosen to ESTABLISH His law through faith.
- He gets us to do what He asks once we believe on HIM.
- He gives us the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT to help us understand HIS LAWS.
- Once you know HE'S THERE watching, you'll do what He says.
- If you don't really believe He's there, you'll just keep doing what you want.
- He says He will punish you. Do you believe that? He tells you to HATE SIN because He hates it.
- If you love it, you'll keep doing it. If you hate it, you'll stop much faster.
- If you have the Holy Spirit, you'll learn to hate it much faster.

Again, we're not saved by our righteousness at all.

- Abraham wasn't saved by HIS righteousness. How do you think Abraham was saved?
- Romans Chapter 4 teaches us all about Abraham and how he got saved.

***[SLIDE 6] Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.***

- How did Abraham gain righteousness? By believing God. That's FAITH.
- Believe what God says, and you will be saved. IMMEDIATELY just like Abraham.

***[SLIDE 7] Romans 4:5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.***

- I'm just giving a quick overview of Romans until we get started there in Chapter 7.
- Once you're saved by FAITH, you're now at PEACE with God.
- You're no longer an enemy of God.

***[SLIDE 8] Romans 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:***

- Once we're saved, we still sin in our flesh. That's our body.
- Our soul is saved, but our flesh continues to sin as we choose to sin.

***[SLIDE 9] Romans 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:***

- When you sin, God's grace increases. This simply means the more you sin, the less you deserve heaven.
- This doesn't mean you should go sin. You want to do your best each day to not sin.

***[SLIDE 10] Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?***

- Now that you're saved, you're FREE FROM SIN.
- This means that your soul is sealed and protected from sin.
- Your body, your flesh is not saved from sin. You're still going to die a physical death.
- You're still going to have aches and pains. You're still aging.
- The evidence of the Bible truths is all around us.

***[SLIDE 11] Romans 6:22-23 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

- We all die a physical death because we've sinned. That's the punishment for sin.
- But, we receive the gift of everlasting life through FAITH on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- If we never put our faith in Jesus to save us, then there's a second death in hell.
- That's what you don't want.
- With that, we're now into Romans Chapter 7. This is an amazing chapter.
- Let's learn this together today.

***[SLIDE 12] Romans 7:1 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?***

- Who is Paul speaking to here? He is writing to the Romans. The Christians in Rome.
- Some Jews had converted from Judaism to Christianity. Paul did. He's speaking to saved people.
- He calls them BRETHREN. He's writing to the CHURCH IN ROME.
- He says, "Hey, you know God's law." You know that the law has dominion or power over a man.
- How long does God's laws have AUTHORITY over you? For as long as you live.

You don't get out of God's laws just because you're saved.

- You don't get a free pass to go do whatever you want. GOD'S LAWS have dominion over you.
- If a preacher says, "We're not under the law. We're under grace." You have to see what he means.
- Most of the time they mean you can do whatever you want because you're not under the law.
- But they take SCRIPTURE and they twist it to they can sin whenever they want.
- So, let's look at an example from the Apostle Paul himself in the very next verse.

***[SLIDE 13] Romans 7:2 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.***

- When a man and woman are married, they are married for LIFE.
- A woman is bound by the law to her husband for as long as he lives. Same thing with the man.
- It goes both ways here. The man doesn't get a special pass.
- There is ONLY one valid reason for divorce and that's at the beginning of a marriage ONLY.

**[SLIDE 14] Matthew 5:31-32** *It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*

- The only valid reason for divorce according to JESUS CHRIST Himself is FORNICATION.
- Fornication and adultery are not the same thing.
- Fornication is a sexual relationship BEFORE marriage.
- Adultery is not a valid reason for divorce the BIBLE teaches.
- NOTHING is a valid reason for divorce BUT fornication.

**[SLIDE 15] Deuteronomy 22:13-14** *If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate her, 14 And give occasions of speech against her, and bring up an evil name upon her, and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, I found her not a maid:*

- What does this mean? This man is claiming that he married a woman that claimed to be a virgin.
- They're married, but the husband finds out that the woman is not a virgin.
- Or at least, that's what he's claiming right here.
- In other words, she fornicated with someone else BEFORE marriage.

**[SLIDE 16] Deuteronomy 22:15-17** *Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel's virginity unto the elders of the city in the gate: 16 And the damsel's father shall say unto the elders, I gave my daughter unto this man to wife, and he hateth her; 17 And, lo, he hath given occasions of speech against her, saying, I found not thy daughter a maid; and yet these are the tokens of my daughter's virginity. And they shall spread the cloth before the elders of the city.*

- The father of the woman brings proof that she was a virgin. Let's say that she was and the husband lied.

**[SLIDE 17] Deuteronomy 22:18-19** *And the elders of that city shall take that man and chastise him; 19 And they shall amerce him in an hundred shekels of silver, and give them unto the father of the damsel, because he hath brought up an evil name upon a virgin of Israel: and she shall be his wife; he may not put her away all his days.*

- What the man did was evil. He lied about his wife. He's beaten. He pays a fine to his father in law.
- And she shall stay his wife all his days. He doesn't get out of it because he doesn't like his wife.
- She didn't fornicate before marriage with him so she stays his wife.

**[SLIDE 18] Deuteronomy 22:20-21** *But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: 21 Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.*

- So, God's punishment to this woman is worse. She lied to her husband about being a virgin.
- But, she also committed fornication before marriage, which God greatly hates.
- So, she was put to death for that. This means the husband is free to marry someone else.
- The Bible is very clear that FORNICATION is the only valid reason for divorce.

- Adultery is not. Violence is not. A man who works all the time and doesn't give you attention is not.
- A man or woman who gets tired of his wife or her husband is not a valid reason for divorce.

**[SLIDE 19] Deuteronomy 24:1-2** *When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.*

- The uncleanness we're talking about is finding that she's been with someone else before marriage.
- Then let him write her a bill of divorcement. This matches the words of Jesus.
- And to make this more clear. Let's look at another example.

**[SLIDE 20] Matthew 1:18-19** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.*

- Joseph and Mary were MARRIED, but they hadn't yet consummated the marriage.
- They hadn't yet come together, and she was found with child.
- To Joseph, that means she fornicated with someone else before their marriage.
- So, he was able to put her away privately through a bill of divorcement according to the law.
- And that's what he was planning to do, but an angel came in a dream and told him what happened.
- Before we move on, let's read one more passage of Scripture.

**[SLIDE 21] Matthew 19:3-6** *The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? 4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*

- God joins you together as husband and wife.
- NO MAN can divide this marriage including you. EXCEPT for ONE REASON only. Let's see what Jesus says.

**[SLIDE 22] Matthew 19:7-9** *They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? 8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

- If divorce happens for any other reason but fornication, the divorce is not valid in God's eyes.
- You might have valid divorce papers, but it's not valid in God's eyes.
- Jesus says, "If you marry another, you've committed adultery. Whosoever marries the woman commits adultery."
- Why is that? Because God says you're still married. FORNICATION is the only valid cause.
- There is an obvious difference in adultery and fornication.
- Fornication is a sexual relationship outside of marriage.
- Adultery is a sexual relationship with someone else while married.

- Abuse is not a valid reason. TIL DEATH DO US PART.

Most preachers won't teach any of this for one of these 2 reasons:

- REASON #1: They don't know what the Bible teaches. They don't study the Bible.
- REASON #2: They don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. They don't want to lose offering.

We preach it here so the people who haven't messed up, WON'T.

- It's not very loving to NOT TEACH this to children and young adults.
- Everybody messes up. If you didn't know and you messed up, start doing things the right way now.
- If you have a new husband or wife, you can't go back to the last unless your current husband or wife dies and the first hasn't been re-married.
- The Bible gives us directions, but preachers won't teach it. That's sick.
- We need to do things the way God wants them done. Let's keep going in Romans Chapter 7 verse 3.

***[SLIDE 23] Romans 7:3 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.***

- This woman in Paul's example is only free from the law of marriage if her husband is dead.
- When she marries another, she doesn't commit adultery IF her husband is dead.

***[SLIDE 24] 1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.***

- That doesn't mean to kill your husband if you don't like him. Murder is a great sin too.
- Now, let's see the point of Paul's example.

***[SLIDE 25] Romans 7:4 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.***

- We were married to the law before we were saved.
- We died when we were saved so we're no longer married to the law.
- We're now married to another instead of the law and that is the LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- Now, we do what He says. When we do what He says, we will bring forth fruit unto God.
- But that doesn't mean all Christians will OBEY JESUS. If not, they're still saved.
- If they don't bring forth fruit, they're still saved. Notice it says, "THAT WE SHOULD BRING FORTH FRUIT."
- If we do obey God, fruit will be brought forth to God. Jesus says to preach the Gospel.
- Preaching the Gospel to others HOUSE TO HOUSE will bring forth fruit unto God.

Something important to notice with Paul's point here is that we're now married to Jesus Christ.

- And remember he's using marriage as an example.
- And Jesus Christ NEVER dies. He's eternal so we'll never be loosed from that marriage.
- So Paul's example here is teaching eternal life too. Notice that today.

**[SLIDE 26] Romans 7:5 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.**

- When we walk in the flesh, we sin. And it feels good to get what we want.
- And then that produces more sin. We've all been there and know how that feels.
- You want more and more and more of whatever that sin is. As an example, gluttony. Eating too much.
- When you start eating too much food, that food tastes so good. We want more.

You get used to that feeling of eating too much. That unhealthy food tastes so good.

- It brings forth more sin. It brings forth fruit unto death. Overeating can kill you off early.
- Walking in the Spirit, you would say: "Hey, I don't need or want that food. It's hurting me."
- "I'm going to choose something different that doesn't hurt my body."

**[SLIDE 27] 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.**

- When we knew the law, we died to that law. The sinning against the law KILLED US.
- Paul is saying that we're DELIVERED from that death. PAST TENSE: "Delivered."
- If you're saved, you're delivered. It's not you might make it. YOU ARE DELIVERED.
- Since Jesus has saved you, you are a new creation. Your body isn't new but your SPIRIT and SOUL is new.
- And he says, "We SHOULD serve in newness of SPIRIT and not in the oldness of the letter."
- In other words, walk in the SPIRIT and not in the FLESH.
- Walking in the flesh leads to sin by breaking God's law.

**[SLIDE 28] Romans 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.**

- Since the law kills you and makes you dead, is the law bad?
- No, the law is good and perfect. It's US who are bad. The law isn't.
- In other words, don't blame the law for you sinning. The law isn't at fault. God isn't at fault.
- Why else is the law good? Paul says he wouldn't have known sin BUT BY THE LAW.

So, we don't automatically know what's wrong like some false preachers will say.

- As a small child, you don't know lying is wrong because it's easier for you.
- Your parents tell you it's wrong. Or hopefully, your parents teach you it's wrong. Some don't.
- You don't know coveting is a very bad sin, until you hear it from the Bible.
- The world teaches you that it's good to covet. It's good to want things other people have.
- God's law teaches you the opposite. It's a great sin to covet.

Like today, you might not have known the only valid reason for divorce is FORNICATION.

- You may have thought it was okay to get a divorce if your wife smacked you once.
- VIOLENCE. "I want a divorce." And the world says, "Yes, that's a valid reason for divorce."
- God says, "No it isn't." Do you see what Paul means right there?
- False preachers like Ray Comfort say, "The moral law is built into you."
- Actually, the Bible says different. Paul says I wouldn't have known sin but by the law.
- Children are taught rules by their parents. DON'T LIE. That's where you learn it. It's learned.

**[SLIDE 29] Romans 7:8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.**

- Sin comes from us breaking the commandments.
- And when we do that, we have a stronger desire for more.
- Do you see how the Bible explains everything to us? When we sin and are fleshly, we want more!!!
- When you're not saved and you sin, YOU WANT MORE!!! Been there and done that. Have you?

If you've never been that way, I'll order you a trophy or something. And children don't count.

- Only older people!!! But seriously, when you aren't saved and you sin, you want more.
- That's what that word CONCUPISCENCE means. "A strong desire to sin or to do evil."
- For example, I used to love bad music. Give me more of that evil music.
- Once I was saved, I couldn't listen to it any more. I didn't want to hear it any more.

Notice at the end of verse 8 what it says: "For without the law sin was dead."

- When you didn't know the law, sin was dead. It was there, but it was dead.
- If you only knew lying was a sin but thought it was okay to cheat at school, then sin was dead.
- You didn't know you were sinning and getting worse. To you, it wasn't growing.
- But what happens when you learn the law? SIN INCREASES. You're like: "Oh, whoops!!!"
- "I better fix that FAST." It's not okay to sin. When you learn the law, sin is no longer dead.
- The next verses explain this even better.

**[SLIDE 30] Romans 7:9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.**

- To explain this a little better, I want to give you an example.
- When children are born into this world, they aren't going to hell.
- A baby that passes away doesn't go to hell. This verse proves that today.
- PAUL says, "FOR I WAS ALIVE WITHOUT THE LAW ONCE."

This means when you don't know the law, you're not yet dead from your sin.

- A baby doesn't know right and wrong. A 1-year old doesn't know right and wrong.
- Some people think they know what they're doing, but they don't understand yet.
- You can tell them what's right and wrong, but they don't fully understand yet.
- Some false preachers will teach that you're going to hell once you take your first breath.
- That's not true. Once you understand God's law, then SIN REVIVES and you die.
- Adults will understand God's law. They might get it all but it only takes one to understand.

**[SLIDE 31] Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.**

- I don't know of one person who never stole something in their life. It doesn't have to be big.
- And everyone knows that stealing is wrong.
- A mentally challenged person may not ever understand that things are wrong.
- Guess where they're going? To heaven. Babies and young children go to heaven.
- They sin but they didn't know and didn't understand it was wrong.

Running around naked is wrong. Little children run right out of the bath tub naked, screaming, yelling.

- "Look at me!!!" They don't understand that they're naked and that being naked is shame.
- Adam and Eve's eyes were opened up once they sinned against God.
- They understood they were naked and it was shameful.
- Do you see the comparison here? Once you understand the law, sin revives, and you die.
- Is that a bad thing? No, you need the law so you understand you're a great sinner. The law is good.
- We need to know it and understand it so we know what we should be doing.

**[SLIDE 32] Romans 7:10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.**

- We weren't supposed to be sinners. The law was to life everlasting. That was the design.
- But Adam and Eve couldn't keep it. We couldn't keep it.
- We broke the commandment, and we find that breaking those commandments lead to death.
- Sin leads to death. Commandment, break commandment, sin, then death.
- Once we sin, we're chosen for death.

**[SLIDE 33] Romans 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.**

- Sin is what kills you. And it deceives you even from a young child.
- Sin is the easy way out. When you need to lie as a young child, you find that it's easier to lie.
- Sin is deceiving to you because it's what feels the best. It feels better to your flesh to sin.
- It feels good to get out of something the easy way by lying or stealing. It's easy.
- So we take that easy path when we're young and don't yet understand. But it kills us.

**[SLIDE 34] Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.**

- God's law is perfect. When we read HIS LAWS, the world thinks some of them are crazy.
- Stoning a woman who lied about being a virgin to her husband. That's God's law. It's perfect.
- God HATES lying and HATES fornication and HATES every other sin in existence.
- A little white lie? He hates that too. From the simplest to the most complex sins, HE HATES.
- Why? Because they lead us to death. HIS LAW, though, leads us to life. His law protects us.
- His law is good for us. It's holy, just, and good. Do you understand that today?
- When God tells us not to do something, it's the best for us. He loves us. He wants to protect us.
- When I yell at Emma to not play on the stairs, it's because I don't want her to get hurt.
- I'm not trying to be mean to her. I'm trying to protect her.

**[SLIDE 35] Romans 7:13 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.**

- The law didn't make DEATH to you. SIN worked death in you. Sin came by the law, though.
- That's what Paul is teaching us right there. And why did God give us the law? To help us.
- He says, "THAT SIN BY THE COMMANDMENT MIGHT BECOME EXCEEDING SINFUL."
- It's so we realize that we're big time sinners. We were big time sinners anyway. We just didn't know it.
- When you realize what God's law says, then you realize how bad of a sinner you are.

- Adultery is a great sin. That's obvious, right? It's a horrible sin. But listen to this.

**[SLIDE 36] Matthew 5:27-28** *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

- If you look at a man or a woman with lust, it's a sin too.
- Jesus says, "You've committed adultery with that man or woman in your heart."
- Then you understand that even a bad thought is a sin.
- It's not as bad as the actual ACT of doing it, but it's still a sin. One sin = hell.
- And then you realize, "UH OH. I'm messed up. I need help."

Romans 7:13 shows us that we need to realize that ANY sin is exceeding sinful.

- It's not okay to sin. Churches that teach it's your goodness that gets you to heaven MINIMIZE sin.
- "Oh, well, that's not really a sin because I don't sin like that any more."
- That's false. Romans is teaching that you need to understand the opposite of that.
- Why? So you understand you're a sinner who needs to be saved. You're not righteous AT ALL.

I want to give you an example of how sick and nasty sin truly is as preachers won't preach this.

- What did people have to do to follow the Old Testament law when they sinned?
- I want to show you an example for a ruler who sinned somewhat through ignorance.
- So this ruler didn't know the law very well and didn't realize he did something wrong.
- It's still a sin even if you didn't know it was wrong.

**[SLIDE 37] Leviticus 4:22-24** *When a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the LORD his God concerning things which should not be done, and is guilty; 23 Or if his sin, wherein he hath sinned, come to his knowledge; he shall bring his offering, a kid of the goats, a male without blemish: 24 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of the goat, and kill it in the place where they kill the burnt offering before the LORD: it is a sin offering.*

- Think about this. Let's say you messed up and sinned. You realize you're guilty of a sin.
- You have to take this innocent animal who did nothing wrong and kill it yourself.
- Killing things is not something I like to do or want to do. This shows you the sickness of sin.
- God designed it this way so you'll feel sorry for your sin.
- Think of having to kill an animal every time you sin. It's your fault. You have to take it out on the animal.
- We don't do animal sacrifices any more because GOD HIMSELF changed that rule.

The LAMB OF GOD is Jesus Christ who is our sacrifice for sins. We don't kill animals any more as a sacrifice.

- Now think about that for a second. Instead of an animal being sacrificed for your sin, who is it now?
- Jesus. That's even worse. Every time you sin, you should be brought to remembrance of who died for you.
- It wasn't an actual lamb dying for your sins. It's JESUS CHRIST who is innocent. Who is perfect.
- He gave you life and loves you more than you could ever imagine. He formed and shaped you.
- And you put Him to death every time you sin. Think of that. Think how sick and nasty sin is.
- That's why you should hate it. God hates sin because it kills.

**[SLIDE 38] Romans 7:14** *For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

- To follow the law, we need to walk in the SPIRIT. But we're fleshly, and we will sin.

**[SLIDE 39] Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.**

- Paul hates sin because he understands how wicked it is.
- He wants to do good, but he doesn't do it all the time. He does that which he hates.

**[SLIDE 40] Romans 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.**

- We know in our minds that GOD'S LAW is good. We're doing the sin. It's not the law that's bad.

**[SLIDE 41] Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

- You see that verse right there? Wow, false preachers and false Christians love that verse.
- Evil and wicked people love that verse. They twist it and make it sound like it isn't their fault.
- And God already people would take that and twist it all around.
- "Well, it's not MY FAULT that I sinned," they say. And I say, "Oh yes it is your fault."
- "No, it says right there that I'm not the one sinning any more. I don't sin any more."

When you sin, it's because that sin dwells within you. You don't want to do it, but you do anyway.

- It's still present within you. When you're saved, sin isn't counted to your soul any more.
- You don't sin in your soul any more. But, of course, you sin in your flesh. That's what Paul is teaching.

**[SLIDE 42] 1 John 3:4-6 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**

- In other words, if you've received Jesus Christ as your Savior, your soul is protected.
- This doesn't mean you NEVER sin again in your flesh. Of course you do, right?
- If sin is counted to your soul, then you've NEVER known Jesus. That's what it means at the end of verse 6.

**[SLIDE 43] 1 John 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**

- When you're saved, you're born again. You are born of God. You cannot sin in your soul. It's sealed.

**[SLIDE 44] Ephesians 1:13-14 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.**

- Understand the difference in your body and your soul and spirit.
- Your body obviously isn't saved and healed completely. You continue to sin in your body.
- Your body isn't perfect. Your soul has been made perfect. You're forgiven.

**[SLIDE 45] 1 John 1:8** *If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

- So, there's the difference in your soul/spirit and your flesh. Your soul is saved. Your body isn't.
- One day, your body will be made new and will have no sin. You won't sin any more.
- That happens on the DAY OF REDEMPTION when Jesus returns.

**[SLIDE 46] Romans 7:18-19** *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.*

- In our flesh, there is nothing good. Our flesh wants to make us happy. It's choosing what's best for us.
- People get divorced now because they're so SELFISH. They act like their partner is selfish.
- When in reality, it's them whose being selfish. "Well, my husband changed."
- "He wants me to stay with him instead of going out with my friends every weekend."
- "He was never like that. He's so selfish now." So, whose really the selfish one there?
- We have to open our eyes and see what's happening in this world.
- We're letting total idiots tell us what's right and wrong now.
- If you let your flesh take over each day, you will be SELFISH. God isn't about selfishness.

The love of God is putting others before yourself. That's what GOD'S LAW does for all of us.

- It puts others before ourselves. Following God's laws are always best for everyone else.
- And the great part? It's actually the best for you too. But your flesh won't think so.

**[SLIDE 47] Romans 7:20** *Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.*

- Do you understand that verse now? Paul repeats this over again.
- SIN IS YOUR FAULT. Understand that. You allow the sin to dwell within you.
- You can choose to let that sin GROW within you, and you'll start sinning more.
- Or, you choose to DIE TO THAT SIN each day and walk in the SPIRIT.

**[SLIDE 48] 1 Corinthians 15:31** *I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.*

- You MUST die daily to that sin that dwells within you. Put it away. Kill it off each day.
- In other words, don't do what YOU want in your flesh. DO WHAT GOD WANTS.
- That's what dying DAILY means right there.

**[SLIDE 49] Romans 7:21** *I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*

- Paul finds within HIMSELF a law that is fighting against the good that he wants to do.
- He doesn't want to sin. He wants to choose God's law. But he has this other law within himself.
- This other law is fighting him to do evil versus doing good. That's the flesh. That's selfishness.
- We all have this sin nature within us. That's what this verse is talking about.

**[SLIDE 50] Romans 7:22-23** *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.*

- On the inside, in our soul, we have delight in the law of God. We know it's good.
- Our inside is a NEW CREATURE. We are a new creation on the inside.
- The outside doesn't change much. You can't tell when someone gets saved by looking on the outside.

The LAW OF GOD is within our soul once you're saved. But there's this other law in our body.

- It wars against us all day long each and every day. And it's not going away.
- And when we fall to that law, we sin and are brought into captivity of that LAW OF SIN.
- Do you see how we know the Bible is true? Everything it says is how it all works. Evidence is there.

**[SLIDE 51] Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**

- This is how we should be feeling when we sin. "O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM!!!"
- When we sin, we should feel very bad about it. We should feel sorry.
- That's the HOLY SPIRIT within you. If you sin and don't feel bad about it, you should check your salvation.

**[SLIDE 52] Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**

- When you sin, you will GRIEVE the Holy Spirit of God.
- The Holy Spirit is now living within you. You have the Spirit of God. He knows what you're doing.
- Try your best not to sin. That's what's best for you and everyone around you.

**[SLIDE 53] 2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.**

- GODLY SORROW worketh repentance unto salvation.
- We should be sorry for what we've done in our lives. We've done some bad things.
- We've sinned against ourselves, our neighbors, our family, our friends.
- But most importantly we've sinned against God who gave us life and loves us.
- We've sinned against our Creator. And yet, He still gives us the chance to be saved.
- Understanding you're a sinner and that it is your fault, leads to GODLY SORROW.
- He brings you to that point through the HOLY SPIRIT. And that leads to you being saved.

And notice what it says there in that verse: "SALVATION NOT TO BE REPENTED OF."

- In others words, your salvation isn't going to change. Once you're saved, you're saved.
- But the sorrow of the world, THAT'S SIN, worketh death.

**[SLIDE 54] Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- God wants you to take this one-time gift of eternal life. It's eternal. You only need to take it once.
- Does that verse say eternal life is through your good works? Does it say it's through your baptism?
- Does that verse say: "But the gift of God is eternal life through following God's commandments?"
- It doesn't say anything like that. SALVATION is through JESUS CHRIST ALONE. Nothing else.
- Let's finish Romans Chapter 7 with the final verse 25.

***[SLIDE 55] Romans 7:25 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.***

- Paul asks in verse 24: "Who shall deliver me from death?" Are you going to do it yourself?
- Nope, the answer is right there in verse 25.
- Jesus Christ delivers us from death. THANK GOD today for that.

***[SLIDE 56] 2 Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.***

- The Apostle Paul through the Holy Spirit teaches us that there's 2 laws in our bodies once we're saved.
- Sin doesn't go away completely because we're still living in our sinful bodies.
- Our flesh wants what's best for ME. It's all about ME.
- Our soul wants what's best for EVERYONE ELSE. It's not all about me.

Each day make a decision on who you're going to serve. Is it yourself or is it God?

- Serve God and stay away from sin. It's your choice. If you make the wrong choice, it is your fault.
- It's not okay to sin.

***[SLIDE 57] Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.***

- God tells us to hate evil, which is sin. Hate the evil within you so you don't fall to it.
- Even in the book of Psalms, you see ETERNAL SECURITY of the believer.
- "HE PRESERVETH THE SOULS OF HIS SAINTS."
- And He delivers you out of the hand of the wicked.
- This means you have the power now to resist sin. You have the Holy Spirit within you.
- It's time to use it. It's time to let the Holy Spirit run your life and your decisions.
- Each day, ask this question: "Hey God, what do you want?"

Wake up, open your eyes, realize what's going on in your life.

- Are you really choosing what's best for God or what's best for yourself?
- Are you choosing things that make it easier for you?
- If things are easy, it's most likely you're choosing what's best for you.
- So open your eyes today and choose to walk in the Spirit and not the flesh.

Let's pray.