**RELEASED FROM THE LAW**

Paul first starts this subject matter in Verse 14 of the previous chapter…  **“**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.”

Paul is writing to people who were once comforted by their religious practices… They were told that by being religious, they were safe…

When I arrived home from our Christmas Eve service this year, I saw some neighbors arriving home, all dressed up, from their semi annual church attendance ot our local Catholic Church. They do not attend all year long, but they make it at Christmas and Easter…

They waved… I smiled… BUT… my heart broke a little that they had been told that all was good… Keep sending us your checks, and… we will see you on April 4th. That is NOT what Jesus wanted from us… HE wants a Monday through Sunday relationship. He wants to hear from us all day… Everyday…

**Romans 7:1** Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law – ( ***IE, Jews***), that the law has dominion ***(power, rule)*** over a man as long as he lives?

* COURSON – “You will never see a corpse in a courtroom. Why Not? Because dead people are not under the Law anymore.”
* BTW, I HAVE seen a lot of sleeping people in court rooms, but that was only in the Juror’s box.
* Paul will demonstrate with the bond of marriage…

**ILLUSTRATION OF THE LAW AND MARRIAGE**

2 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. 3 So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

* BTW, Paul is NOT teaching about marriage and divorce here… He is teaching about being free from the Law… NOT becoming free from your In-Laws!
* Paul was married at the time of his conversion… But never mentions his wife or what became of her.
* PAUL’S POINT: ONLY death frees a wife from her husband… AND… ONLY death to Sin by being born again frees us from the condemnation of the Law.

4 **Therefore, my brethren**, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

* Becoming a Christian means that the Religion of Law is dead to us now, and we are NOW bound by grace…
* When Jesus said “It… is… finished” **John 19:30** I believe He was referring to the Law…
  + The Law is finished condemning My People… It is finished with it’s spilling of animal blood… It is not only finished, but now it is fulfilled by the spilling of innocent blood, My blood.

**FLESH VS FRUIT… OLD VS NEW**

5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. 6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

* **COURSON -** "Newness of spirit" speaks of the New Covenant, of an entirely new way of living (Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 36). "No longer will I give you tables of stone," the Lord declares in the New Covenant, "but I will write My will upon the table of your heart. Every day will be an adventure. Some days I might awaken you at 4:30 A.M. to seek My face and to pray, while other times, I might tell you to sleep in." That's the way Christianity was meant to be.
* The new life in Christ is free from the condemnation of religion… AND it is fresh with the relationship with Jesus Christ.

***Is there still any good in the law? Listen…***

7 What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

* **NLT** - Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."
* Beloved… The behavioral part of the Law is still valid and good to follow…
* Do not worship anything other than God… Do not idolize anything but God…Honor the name of God… Do nor covet after anything God has not provided… DO NOT LUST… Honor your Father and Mother… Don’t lie… Do not give false testimony when asked to…Don’t steal… Do not murder the innocent… Give God one day a week to worship Him… And on and on…
* Then Jesus added over 100 more commandments… Go the extra mile… Pray for your enemies… Give until it changes the way you live… Love the Lord and others as yourself… Keep My commandments… Live by the Word… Live a life of service… Better to give than receive… Practice child like faith… Think of others more than yourself… Have faith like a mustard seed… Don’t turn My church into a market… Go and Sin no more.

**CONVICTED BY THE LAW**

8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced ***(Revealed)*** in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead.

* NLT - If there were no law, sin would not have that power.
* The Pharisees had learned to live is such a way as to fulfill the letter of the Law while still sinning in ways that could be justified.
* THAT is religion. That is a problem. Paul is NOW seeing that his religion was empty.

**HE SAYS…**

9 I was alive once without the law, ***(The understanding of the Law)*** but when the commandment came, ***(WITH understanding)*** sin revived and I died. ***(To my flesh)*** ***ACTS 9*** 10 And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death.

* Ask a 16 year old about the California Vehicle code… OH! They love it… It says they can drive!
* Ask a 26 year old about the Vehicle code – THEY HATE IT! It says I have to drive 25 miles an hour past a school. My Hemi doesn’t even GO that slow. I HAVE to stop at every corner? That’s stupid! I have to obey 428 pages of laws? The cops are out to get me!
* For Paul… he discovered on the road to Damascus that the Law was physical for him… Don’t eat this… touch that… Eat with these people… Do give every tenth grain to god… Do pray loud and long to be heard by all… Do wear this holy looking garment…
* BUT THEN… Jesus wrecked him for the physical and Saul the pharisee became Paul the Apostle… broken in body and earthly things… BUT… Walking in newness of life!

**THE OCCASIONAL SIN**

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me.*

* To try to have the fruit of the Spirit in the power of our flesh is very frustrating!
* **GALATIANS 5:22** - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
* I want to do all of those nice sounding things but people are just SO unwise I just want to grit my teeth and SIN!
  + I want to say words that aren’t in the Bible…
  + But I remember that…

12 Therefore the law *is* holy, ***(spiritual)*** and the commandment holy ***(spiritual)*** and just and good.

* **Love is more important than labor… Love is better than rules…**

**WHY I NEED TO FIGHT SIN**

13 Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

**CEV -** Am I saying that something good caused my death? Certainly not! It was sin that killed me by using something good. Now we can see how terrible and evil sin really is. 14 We know that the Law is spiritual. But I am merely a human, and I have been sold as a slave to sin.

**EVERY CHRISTIAN’S BATTLE**

15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, ***(Being perfect)*** that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

**PURPOSE OF THE LAW**

16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.

**INFECTED BY SIN**

17 But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ***(On my own)***

19 For the good that I will *to do,* I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do,* that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not *to do,* it is no longer I who do it, but sin ***(old nature)*** that dwells in me.

**WILLING TO DO GOOD**

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ***(I love doing right)***

**THE OLD NATURE**

But I see another law in my members, ***(Body)*** warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

**WHO YOU GONNA CALL?**

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

* In Paul's day, the sentence of a man convicted of first-degree murder could be to be tied to the body of his victim. Often, the stench alone would kill the murderer. It is possibly this Roman practice to which Paul is referring when he cries, "Who will free me from the failures, shortcomings, and sinful tendencies I'm forced to drag behind me wherever I go?"

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.

Beloved, it is ONLY through Jesus Christ that I can overcome sin. How shall I do this? ONE DAY AT A TIME as Jesus taught in **Matthew 6:33-34**:

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,**

**and all these things shall be added to you.**

**Therefore do not worry about tomorrow,**

**for tomorrow will worry about its own things.**

**Sufficient for the day *is* its own trouble.**