

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 47 PART 1: “FREEDOM!”

ROMANS 8:1-4 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* ² For **“THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE”** *has set you free* in Christ Jesus from **“THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH”**. ³ For God has done what **THE LAW**, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of **THE LAW** might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

From, “Condemnation” to “No Condemnation.” What is the key? For those who are Believers in Jesus Christ, it is that we are IN CHRIST. And, IN CHRIST “The Spirit FREEDOM” reigns!

In Physics, there are certain "LAWS" that apply universally. The ONLY way to overcome one LAW is by the application of ANOTHER LAW. The LAW of Gravity can be overcome by the combination of the LAWS of Thrust and Lift - that is by the LAW of Aerodynamics.

So, it is in the Spiritual Realm. **THE LAW OF SIN** has placed humanity under the Judgment of **DEATH**, and thereby the **Condemnation** of the **MOSAIC LAW**.

However, another more powerful force has been enacted. For those who are Believers in Jesus' Death and Resurrection have been SET FREE from the Judgment and Condemnation of the Mosaic Law, by **THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE**.

This new LIFE is **produced** by, **taught** by, and **enforced** by the **HOLY SPIRIT'S** presence IN the Believer. THIS is the FREEDOM we want... and need!

WHERE THE SPIRIT IS... THERE IS FREEDOM

The “condemnation” that Paul speaks of is from his inability to find the “**freedom**” to Live to the glory of Christ using The Law as his helper. It DID NOT work... The Law cannot produce “**freedom**” any more than it can produce **Holiness**, or **Righteousness**, or **Peace!** **It wasn't given for that purpose.**

- **It was given to declare the “altogether difference” of God’s Holiness and man’s sinfulness.**
- **In this way it would “lead to believer to cry-out for a Savior... the Messiah who would fulfill ALL of its demands and provide the grace for salvation to ALL who receive Him.**

The declaration of **Vs 2** echoes Paul’s words from his former writings in **GALATIANS** and **2 CORINTHIANS**. The **2ND CORINTHIANS** reference is most interesting here, because the **LETTER TO THE ROMANS** is being written FROM the city of **CORINTH** only a few months after he had written his **LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS**. The parallels are easily seen.

2 COR 3:6-18 [NLT]

⁶ **HE has enabled us to be ministers of HIS NEW COVENANT. This is a COVENANT not of WRITTEN LAWS, but of THE SPIRIT. The OLD WRITTEN COVENANT ends in death; but under the NEW COVENANT, THE SPIRIT gives LIFE.**

⁷ The OLD WAY, with LAWS etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of GOD, even though the brightness was already fading away.

ROMANS LESSON 47 PART 2: "FREEDOM!"

⁸ Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the NEW WAY, now that THE HOLY SPIRIT is giving LIFE?
⁹ If the OLD WAY, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the NEW WAY, which makes us right with GOD!
¹⁰ In fact, that First Glory was Not Glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the NEW WAY.
¹¹ So if the OLD WAY, which has been replaced, was Glorious, how much more glorious is the NEW, which remains forever!
¹² Since this NEW WAY gives us such confidence, we can be very bold.
¹³ We are not like Moses, who put a Veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see The Glory, that was fading away.
¹⁴ But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the OLD COVENANT is being read, the same Veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this Veil can be removed only by believing in CHRIST.
¹⁵ Yes, even today when they read Moses' Writings, their hearts are covered with that Veil, and they do not understand.
¹⁶ But whenever someone turns to the LORD, the Veil is taken away.
¹⁷ For the LORD is THE SPIRIT, and wherever THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD is, there is freedom.
¹⁸ So all of us who have had that Veil removed can see and reflect the glory of THE Lord. And THE LORD—who is THE SPIRIT—makes us more and more like HIM as we are changed into HIS glorious image.

THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The glorious note of victory that is the theme of ROMAN 8 is that the Lord KNOWING our need has provided a helper... **and not just ANY helper**. For this is the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD... One with the FATHER and the SON. And the HOLY SPIRIT is NOT just WITH us... **He is IN us!**

The mention of the SPIRIT here introduces a more in-depth presentation of his ministry.

- This was introduced in ROM 5:5, but not developed at that point. There his coming was said to "flood the hearts of believers with the love of God."

ROM 5:5 "...and hope does not put us to shame, because GOD'S LOVE has been poured into our hearts through the HOLY SPIRIT who has been given to us.

- Then in ROM 7:6, 'the new life of the Spirit' is contrasted with 'the old written code', establishing that what THE LAW could NOT do is NOW under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

- There is also the brief reference in **ROM 1:4** to the *'Spirit of Holiness'* in connection with Christ's being raised from the dead.

In **ROM 8** Paul now shows what is involved in the 'new life' which the Spirit imparts and sustains. With the entrance of the Spirit there is no further question of defeat. The conflict continues, but where the Spirit is in control the power of indwelling sin is mastered.

ROMANS 8:2 has the **3rd mention of the Holy Spirit** since **5:5**, but He is mentioned **18 more times** through **8:27**.

This law ("principle") set me free (the Gr. aorist tense suggests a once-for-all act of freedom at salvation) from the law of sin and death.

That **principle** is called **the principle "of sin and death"** because **sin**, as Paul said repeatedly, **produces death** (**5:15, 17, 21; 6:16, 21, 23; 7:10-11, 13; 8:6, 10, 13**).

As **The Principle of Sin** it contrasts with **THE SPIRIT**;

as **the Principle that brings Death** it also contrasts with **THE SPIRIT who gives LIFE**.

TWO RULES... TWO RESULTS...

For "THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE" has set you free [because you are] in CHRIST JESUS from "THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH".

Why is there no condemnation? Because the law of the Spirit, that is, life in Christ Jesus, has set us free from the law of sin, which leads to death.

The apostle was contrasting two different laws (or principles).

- The **OLD LAW** is the **POWER OF SIN** that inevitably results in **DEATH**. Because we are NOT able to NOT sin, **THE LAW** Condemns us... Frustrates us... and leaves us feeling Hopeless...
- The **NEW LAW**, which sets the believer free from the power of THE OLD, is **THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT**. IT is filled with Life... Producing in the Believer the empowerment to RESIST sin and LIVE in FREEDOM...
- The **NEW LAW OF THE SPIRIT** says that only by living in UNION with CHRIST JESUS can believers break the power of sin in their lives.

***1 THESS 4:7** For GOD has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but GOD, who gives his HOLY SPIRIT to you.*

*[PHILLIPS - NTME] The calling of GOD is not to impurity but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of man's ruling but of GOD's command. It is not for nothing that the SPIRIT GOD gives us is called the **HOLY SPIRIT**.*

- It is **THE SPIRIT OF GOD** who provides victory, and that **SPIRIT** is the possession of every true **CHILD OF GOD**.

When the **FREEDOM OF THE SPIRIT**, *celebrated in CHAP. 8*, is *compared with the repressive power of sin* in **CHAP. 7**, it may seem strange that both could be operative in the same person.

- Yet experience teaches us that every attempt to live the Christian life apart from the empowering presence of the Spirit of God ends in defeat?
- We lose the battle only when we engage the enemy without the resources supplied by the Spirit.
- God never intended us to engage the flesh, sin, or the world on our own.
- Jesus said, *“Apart from me you can do nothing”* (JOHN 15:5)
- The STRUGGLES of the **ROMANS 7** experience are **self-imposed**:
 - They show the natural outcome of attempting to apply **THE LAW** in a manner for which it was not intended...
 - And in failing to appropriate the HELP provided by God through the indwelling presence of the **HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD**.
- The victory of **ROMANS 8** results from living in vital union with Christ Jesus, sustained and empowered by the Spirit of God.