

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS LESSON 48 PART 1: “WHAT GOD HAS DONE”

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.*

The New Testament is filled with powerful and significant verses. Some stand-out like shining jewels, drawing our attention, and declaring victorious truth.

JOHN 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*

ACTS 4:11-12 *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

ROM 3:21-22 *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from THE LAW, although THE LAW and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.*

EPH 2:4-6 *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...*

HERE in VERSES 3-4 is one of the most profound... declaring the Purpose, the Process, and the Result of God’s dealing with THE LAW through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

“For what THE LAW was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so, he condemned sin in “sinful man”, in order that the righteous requirements of THE LAW might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.” [R. Kent Hughes]

Legislation (LAW) is not equipped to overcome a “living” force. Laws, rules, commandments may be written AND agreed upon. BUT that does NOT mean they will be carried-out, adhered to, or obeyed.

Individual action MUST be involved... both in following and enforcing.

As regards God’s LAW there are 2 possible methods:

- IF we are the one who “attempts” to follow and enforce The Law it is called “Works” and it is destined to end with frustration and ultimately failure... That is CHAPTER 7

- **IF** we realize that God has placed within us a “Helper” – **THE HOLY SPIRIT** – THAT will lead to peace, success, and testimony before God... That is **CHAPTER 8**

GOD’S WAY TO SANCTIFICATION: NOT BY THE LAW BUT BY THE SPIRIT...

➤ **THE PURPOSE:**

ROM 8:3a “For God has done what **THE LAW**, weakened by the flesh, could not do.”

The Law is Righteous, Holy, and Good... (Rom 7:)

WE are weak... unable to live by it’s Holy demands... and NEVER designed to...

SO, God...

- “For...” (8:3) indicates that 8:3–4 explains 8:2 – There is NO Condemnation because we are NO longer under the bondage of the Law... It is GOD who has made this change... mankind could not fulfill the demands of The Law... He was never intended to...
- What **THE LAW... could NOT do... God (has done)** – The order of the phrase is lit: “What was impossible for **THE LAW to do... weakened by the flesh... God... -**
- **Weakened by the Flesh...** – THE LAW was never intended to “perfect or change” the flesh... – THIS frustration was to drive man to the demand for a Substitute (Messiah) NOT to lead to a “self-fulfilling” attempt to “Live by the Law”

ROMANS LESSON 48 PART 2: “WHAT GOD HAS DONE”

➤ **THE PROCESS:**

ROM 8:3b “...By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh...”

HOW would God accomplish this?

There are a number of precise doctrinal statements in this verse that are essential to proper understanding of the Person of Christ and the Incarnation of the Son of God.

- **His OWN Son...** – What God would accomplish through Jesus, the Christ, **COULD NOT** be accomplished through ANY other human being. Jesus was NOT just another man... He was the Son of God!
- **Likeness of sinful flesh...** – ALL these words are significant
 - Jesus was NOT “**sinful flesh**” like ALL others since Adam... –
If so His “sin” would have prevented Him from be the perfect, unblemished sacrifice... He would have been guilty, and his death would have been deserved...
 - Jesus was NOT just “**the Likeness of Flesh**” – that would set-up a heretical position of the Gnostics that Jesus just “**appeared**” to have a body, but was a “**phantom**” –
THIS would have prevented Him from being an acceptable “substitute” for humanity...

1 JOHN 4: 2-3 *By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God,³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.*

- Jesus WAS the “Likeness” of “Sinful flesh” – **Homiomati** – *like in every apparent way* [Phil 2:8]
 - *He was like EVERY other Human EXCEPT He had NO “Sin nature”* [Like us... YET w/o Sin]
 - *He was UNLIKE every other Human... HE was also GOD...*
- *For sin... – “Peri-hamartias” – in regard to a “Sin Offering”*
Isa 53:10 “When You make His soul **an offering for sin...**”]
- *Condemned sin in the flesh... – “Judicial Sentence” was passed upon Christ’s offering of Himself, and executed on SIN in Christ’s ‘flesh’, in HIS human nature, and BY His substitution upon ALL humanity.*
2 COR 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

➤ **THE RESULT:**

ROM 8:4 “...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.*”

Here is the fulfilment of Jeremiah’s prophecy of the new covenant: (JER. 31:33)

‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts’

and of the parallel promise of EZEKIEL 36:26–27

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

There are **Two Ways** that have been used to interpret how Christians fulfill “the righteous requirement of the law”:

- **by keeping it through the Spirit’s enabling or**
- **by being in Christ, who perfectly fulfilled the law for Christians.**

Paul writes, “**fulfilled in us,**” not “**fulfilled for us.**” He highlights *our walking*.

The first view fits better with these words.

- **The believer lives a righteous life, not in the power of the Law, but in the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **The Law does not have the power to produce holiness; it can only reveal and condemn sin.**
- **But the indwelling Holy Spirit enables you to walk in obedience to God’s will.**
- **The legalist tries to obey God in his own strength and fails to measure up to the righteousness that God demands.**
- **The Spirit-led Christian, as he yields to the Lord, experiences the sanctifying work of the Spirit in his life.**