

## Christ & His Law

### Lesson – 7 Christ, the End of the Law

#### Square Circles and Carnal Christians

Rom. 5:12-21, 6:15-23, 7:13-25, 9:30-10:4, Gal. 3:19-24.

**Romans 10:4 NRSV** “For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”

#### Where Sin Abounded (Rom. 5:12-21)

**\*Proverbs 6: 23** For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; And reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

**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.

The law only amplifies our need for righteousness.

**\*John 15:22 (NKJV)** *If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.*

**Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV)** For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

#### Law and Grace (Rom. 6:15-23) Read

**\*Romans 7:12 (KJV 1900)** Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

**When I first learned to drive I had a DMV driving handbook in my dash to help me remember the different regulations and right of way laws. There based on principles of safety.**

**Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (NKJV)** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon.-Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 393.

#### O Wretched Man! (Rom. 7:21-25) Read

**Romans 7:15–19 (NKJV)** For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. <sup>16</sup> If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. <sup>17</sup> But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> 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. “???”

**“That all that is said in this chapter of the carnal man, sold under sin, did apply to Saul of Tarsus, no man can doubt: that what is here said can ever be with propriety applied to Paul the Apostle, who can believe? Of the former, all is natural; of the latter, all here said would be monstrous and absurd, if not blasphemous.” - Adam Clark**  
**Had he been in captivity to the law of sin and death, after his conversion to Christianity, what did he gain by that conversion? Nothing for his personal holiness. He had found no salvation under an inefficient law; and he was left in thralldom under an equally inefficient Gospel. The very genius of Christianity demonstrates that nothing like this can, with any propriety, be spoken of a genuine Christian.”**

**Galatians 5:16–24** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. <sup>18</sup> But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, <sup>20</sup> Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Can you imagine how these words could ever apply to that spiritual giant who was Paul: "I am carnal, sold under sin," "... bringing me into captivity to the law of sin," "What I hate, that do I," "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Romans 7:14, 23, 15, 24.

What does this miserable, sin-bound creature have in common with the experience described in the preceding chapter? "we ... are dead to sin," "... freed from sin," "Let not sin therefore reign," "Sin shall not have dominion over you," "Shall we sin? God forbid," "Being then made free from sin." Romans 7:2, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18.

And how could Paul himself harmonize his wretched state of Romans 7 with the soaring experience of Spirit-filled victory described in Romans 8? "There is therefore now no condemnation," "... made me free from the law of sin," "... righteousness-fulfilled in us," "... mortify the deeds of the body," "We are the children of God." Romans 8:1, 2, 4, 13, 16.

### Spirit and Flesh or Carnal Conflict

**James 4:1** *From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*

\***1 Peter 2:11** *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4** *And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?*

**Romans 8:1-8** (NKJV) *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup> *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is*

*life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

### The Goal of the Law (Rom. 9:30-10:4)

**Romans 10: 4** (NKJV) *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

The word *tel'-os* translated "end" means what completes a thing, or renders it perfect; It also means the design or object which is had in view; the **principal purpose** for which it was undertaken;

**1 Timothy 1:5** (KJV) *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:*

**1 Timothy 1:5** (NKJV) *Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,*

**1 Peter 1:9** (KJV 1900) *Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

### The Disciplinarian (Gal. 3:19-24)

#### Promises To The Righteous

**Psalm 32:10** (NKJV) *Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.*

**Psalm 16:4-6** (NKJV) *Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten after another god; Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, Nor take up their names on my lips. O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You maintain my lot. <sup>6</sup> The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Yes, I have a good inheritance.*

**Psalm 5:10-12** (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> *Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You. But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You. For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield.*

**Psalm 37:9–11** (NKJV) *For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the Lord, They shall inherit the earth. <sup>10</sup> For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; Indeed, you will look carefully for his place, But it shall be no more. <sup>11</sup> But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

**Psalm 37:18–20** (NKJV) <sup>18</sup> *The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever. <sup>19</sup> They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. <sup>20</sup> But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away.*

**Psalm 37:22** (NKJV) *For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth, But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.*

**Psalm 37:37–38** (NKJV) *Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; The future of the wicked shall be cut off.*

**Proverbs 1:28–33** (NKJV) <sup>28</sup> *“Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. <sup>29</sup> Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord, <sup>30</sup> They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. <sup>31</sup> Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. <sup>32</sup> For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; <sup>33</sup> But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil.”*

**Ecclesiastes 8:12–13** (NKJV) *Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. <sup>13</sup> But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong his days, which are as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.*