

ROMANS

Chapter 7 – Freedom from the Law

Freedom from law?

- Are we REALLY free from law?
- As we start chapter 7 we look back at chapter 6 for context...
 - 6:12-14
 - Sin is not to reign in your mortal body
 - Do not continue presenting your body to sin as an instrument of unrighteousness but present yourself to God as one alive from the dead
 - Sin is not master over you but grace

Deliverance from the Law

• OR

- Paul begins chapter 7 with a conjunction – connecting the idea in chapter 7 with chapter 6
 - Paul is explaining the commonplace truth “that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives” to those who must be ignorant of the facts.
 - ‘that long and no longer’ – Christians who are “dead to the law” have been “discharged from the law”
 - Those discharged from the law of sin are now bound in Christ’s blood to grace. (Note our study last week)

Deliverance from the Law

The truth

- A man is bound to sin until he dies to it
- Christ's death and resurrection is what we enter in baptism and we "die to sin" releasing us
- In baptism we enter "the law of Christ" and are bound to a new life in Christ

Paul's illustration

- A woman is bound to her husband until he dies
- Upon death of the husband, both wife and husband are "dead" to the marriage
- Being freed, in a new marriage, the woman is bound to another husband

Deliverance from the Law

- Discharged (released)
 - gr – katargeo – *to be rendered inoperative, null and void*
- In the illustration
 - The woman is no longer a wife “bound by law” to a husband. She is free from the obligations of that relationship
- In truth
 - The Christian is freed from the law of sin and its devastating consequences and enjoys a new life

Deliverance from the Law

- The law of the husband (speaking to those who know the law)
 - The law concerning the relationship of a wife to a husband, including all that the law prescribes with regard to the relationship
 - Compare this to:
 - The law of the burnt offering
 - (Lev 6:8-13)
 - The law of the leper
 - (Lev 14:2-32)
 - The law of the Nazirite
 - (Numbers 6:13-21)

Deliverance from the law

- Application: Death to the Law
 - Not “you died” but “you were put to death”
 - A reference to the old self being crucified with Christ
 - Baptism is death in Christ’s cross
 - The law did not die – WE DID! We were killed to sin and also to the law

Deliverance from the law

- “through the body of Christ”
 - His crucified body (Col 1:22, 1 Pet 2:24)
 - Jesus died to sin on the cross (Rom 6:10) bearing our sins in His body on the cross.
 - Jesus died to the law, satisfying the demand of the law for the death of the sinner (Gal 3:13; Eph 2:15; Col 2:14)
 - Our baptism is INTO His death (Rom 6:3) – His accomplishment of the cross applies to us

Deliverance from the law

- “through the body of Christ”
 - Thus, we die to sin (Rom 6:1-11) AND the law (Rom 7:1-6)
 - The debt was settled – FOR us!

Deliverance from the law

- “that you might also belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead”
 - Death was the requirement to release us into life in Christ
 - We are joined with Him in His new resurrection life (Rom 6:4; Gal 2:20)
- “in order that we might bear fruit for God.”
 - The purpose of union with Christ – death to the law leads to fruit unto God

Deliverance from the law

- Fruit for death vs fruit for God
 - “while we were in the flesh”
 - Before baptism – living the ‘old man’ life (Rom 6:6)
 - Servants of sin (Rom 7:17, 20)
 - Bearing fruit for death (Rom 6:21)
 - Flesh sometimes means tissue (Luke 24:39, 1 Cor 15:39, John 1:14) **WITHOUT** ethical associations
 - Flesh sometimes means ‘ungodly’ (Rom 7:18; 8:3,8; Gal 5:16, 19-21) **WITH** ethical associations

Deliverance from the law

- “sinful passions”
 - Inward passions leading to sin
- “which were brought to light by the law”
 - The power of sin found in the law an occasion to deceive and to kill
- “were at work in the parts of our body”
 - Our flesh, when sin is not controlled (Rom 7:23)

Deliverance from the law

- “But now have been released from the law”
 - Again – *katargeo* - *rendered inoperative, null, void*
 - Christians are not without law to guide their lives but they are not dependent on law as a means of justification (1 Cor 9:21) – The grace of God is not dependent on law – it is a free gift, for those who choose to accept that gift.

Deliverance from the law

- “having died to that by which we were bound”
 - The death to the law was accomplished by the death of Christ and applied to us through our baptism into his death
 - We die both to sin, and to the system demanding the death of the sinner
 - The debt was paid and is no longer joined to us

Deliverance from the law

- “so that we serve in newness of the spirit”
 - Newness of life
 - The life we arise to upon being baptized into Christ
 - The bond we now have in Christ Jesus having the old bond to sin removed by death of “the old man”
 - The resurrected life we now share in Christ
- “not in oldness of the letter”
 - The old state of affairs under the old covenant

Next week

- Romans 7:7-25
- Vindication of the Law and the Real explanation of the human predicament