

Romans Class 5

Recap Weeks 1-4

Week 1

- Introduction of Righteousness from God
- Wrath of God against Unrighteousness

Week 2

- Jew and Gentile alike under sin
- No one will be declared righteous by observing the Law

Week 3

- Righteousness apart from Law
- Abraham believed God, credited as righteousness

Week 4

- Benefits that come with this righteousness from God
 - peace with God
 - hope of glory
 - rejoice in sufferings
 - rejoice in God himself
- Adam and Jesus
 - Jesus the solution to death (resurrection)
- Righteousness through faith leads to holiness
 - Started talking about death to sin

Objection to Righteousness Through Faith

Jewish objection:

- This teaching encourages sin

Gentile abuse

- Why not sin
- Flesh is sinful, no point fighting it (form of Gnosticism / Stoicism)

Chapters 6-7

- Paul destroys those positions
- Proofs:

- 1) Baptism (death to sin, new life)
- 2) No longer slavery to sin, but to righteousness.
- 3) Sin -> death; righteousness -> eternal life
- 4) Marriage: death set us free from law.

Overall point: God's gift of righteousness is designed to draw us toward holiness, not toward sin.

Answer: Death to Sin

- 1) (LAST WEEK) Baptism (last week) Rom 6:2-4
 - died to sin
 - buried
 - raised to new life

Purpose of death and resurrection:

- to leave behind sin and its effects
- break the addiction to sin
- why would you want to bring it into new life?

SO.... Is sin justified because it causes grace to increase? NO!!

- 2) Released from slavery to sin, and became servants of righteousness.

Is sin justified because we are not under law but instead under grace? NO!!

(Rom 6:15) What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

(Rom 6:16) Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

(Rom 6:17) But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

(Rom 6:18) You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

(Rom 6:19) I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as **you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity** and to ever-increasing wickedness, so **now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness**.

(Rom 6:20) When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

- “offer” yourselves

(Rom 6:21) **What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!**

(Rom 6:22) **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.**

(Rom 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Slavery to sin -> death
- Slavery to righteousness -> eternal life

3) As in marriage, the death to sin set us free from the law.

(Rom 7:1) Do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to men who know the law--that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

(Rom 7:2) For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

(Rom 7:3) So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

(Rom 7:4) So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

(Rom 7:5) For when we were controlled by the sinful nature,^[1] the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

(Rom 7:6) But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

- Marriage
 - bound as long as you live
 - death releases surviving spouse
- Law
 - bound until death
 - died, buried with Jesus, raised to new life -> set free from Law

Law and Sin

PAST TENSE:

(Rom 7:7) What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

(Rom 7:8) **But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire.** For apart from law, sin is dead.

(Rom 7:9) Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

(Rom 7:10) I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

(Rom 7:11) **For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.**

(Rom 7:12) So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Rom 7:13 Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

- Law stimulates the desire to sin.
- Law proves that sin is evil.
- Law itself is good.

Christians are still under a "Law":

(1Co 9:21) To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

But that law is not the basis for justification.

Struggling with Sin

PRESENT TENSE BEGINS:

(Rom 7:14) We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

(Rom 7:15) I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Can you relate?

John agrees:

(1Jn 1:8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(1Jn 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(1Jn 1:10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

James agrees:

(Jas 3:2) For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

(Rom 7:16) And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

(Rom 7:17) As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

Paul is not saying he is not responsible.

Saying that his “good self” acknowledges that God's Law is good.

(Rom 7:18) I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature [flesh]. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

(Rom 7:19) For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

(Rom 7:20) Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

(Rom 7:21) So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

(Rom 7:22) For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

(Rom 7:23) but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

Whether Jewish Law or law of Christ:

- Law cannot produce righteousness. Law is still good
- Human effort cannot produce righteousness. Human effort is still necessary.

“Struggling” or not??? Giving in? **Are you in the struggle?**

Self control: Principle overrules passion. Mind overrules flesh.

Internal battle between good and evil, between mind and flesh, in a Christian

- Paul uses present tense, first person “I”, “me”
- Describes one who sincerely wants to do good – converted heart.
- Must escape the body of flesh in order to be finished with this struggle.

FUTURE TENSE

(Rom 7:24) What a wretched man I am! **Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

(Rom 7:25) Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature [flesh] a slave to the law of sin.

When we have been rescued:

(Isa 35:8) And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

(Isa 35:9) **No lion shall be there,**

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

(Isa 35:10) And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and **sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Here, even the wisest among us sometimes goes astray.
There, even fools will not go astray!

Here, Satan roams about like a lion seeking to devour us.
There, no lion nor ravenous beast.

Here, we struggle with sin (Blessed are those who mourn...)
There, the struggle will be over!

Stay in the fight. It will be overwhelmingly worth it!

Next week: God has given us a helper in the fight!