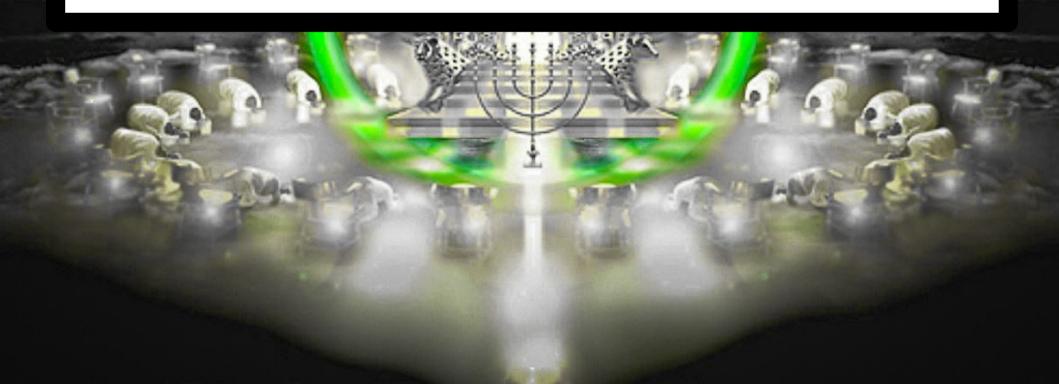


Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.



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How God enabled us to have peace with himself.

Our theme for 2016: "Be transformed!"

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

In view of God's mercy!

Previously

Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Rom 1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness

Previously

Rom 3:21 But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ



Dying to sin

Rom 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

Rom 6:2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Rom 6:3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Rom 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

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Now that we are justified, are we free to sin? No!

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The previous life is over

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We died to sin when we were baptized

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Purpose of baptism: end the old life, begin the new

Baptism and New Life

Joh 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Joh 3:4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

Joh 3:5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Purpose of baptism: end the old life, begin the new

Dying to sin

Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

Rom 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

Rom 6:14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

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Temptations remain but we have a choice

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The choice

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Which kind of instrument are you?

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You can overcome sin. Promise of God!

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Grace accomplishes what Law could not

Dying to sin

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?

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Why would you want to go back to slavery to sin?

Dying to sin

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.

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All of us were slaves to sin.

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All in!

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There is no third option!

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We all used to choose to sin

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Now, choose to serve God rather than wickedness!

Dying to sin

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

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.

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You are worse off because of your sin

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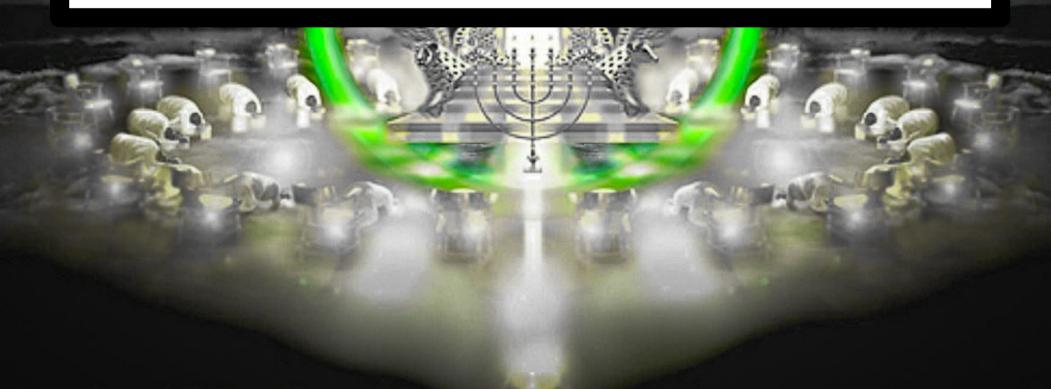
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The choice: Death or eternal life!

Dying to 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?



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Need to die to be set free from law

And then be born again... John 3:3

Dying to the Law

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.

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The Law of Moses no longer applies

Inferiority of the Law

Rom 7:5 For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, 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.

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Law created temptation to disobey

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New way: Spirit, not the written code

Jeremiah: Law written on our hearts

Jer 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

Jer 31:34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

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Sin causes us to approach law with extrinsic motivation

Grace moves us to serve from intrinsic motivation

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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.

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Commandment came with temptation to disobey

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Sin took the opportunity and brought death

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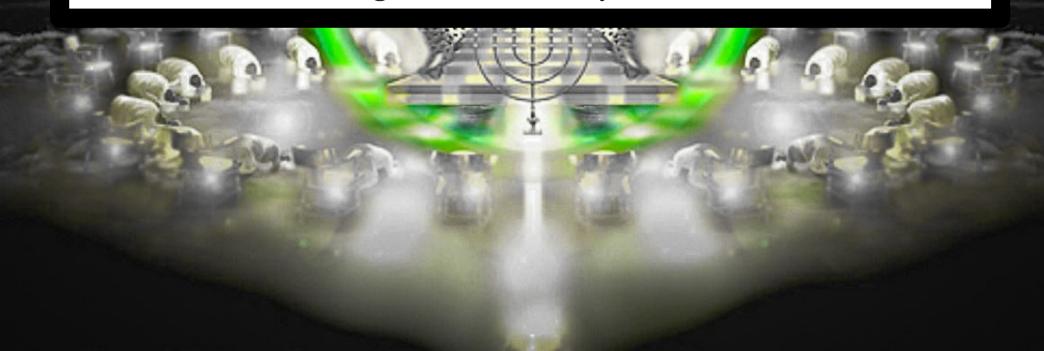
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Fault is not with law but the sin living in us

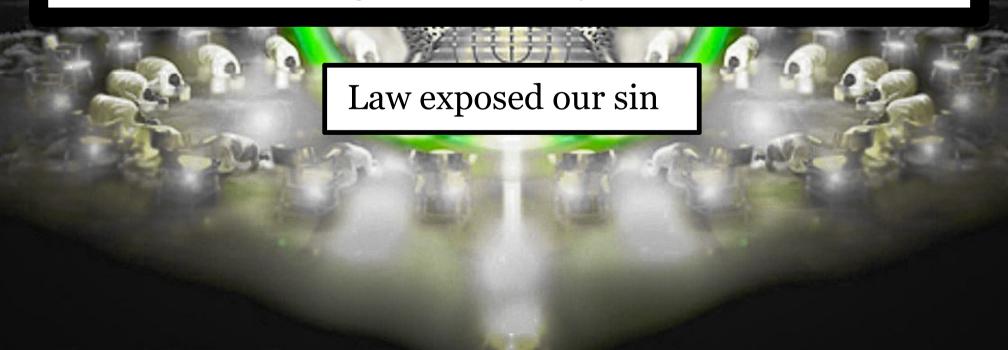
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Inferiority of the Law

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.

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.

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It requires a spiritual solution!

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We don't respond well to law.

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The sin that entered the world through Adam and infected all mankind

Inferiority of the Law

Rom 7:18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For <u>I have the desire</u> to do what is good, but I <u>cannot carry it</u> <u>out.</u>

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.

Our dysfunctional response to law

Inferiority of the Law

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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.

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 a slave to the law of sin.

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The problem that law cannot solve

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The gospel of Jesus is the solution

