

COMMENTARY

ROMANS

Chapter 7:

vs. 1- 6 Paul continues to speak concerning the freedom from the Law which had been so zealously followed. He shows, through the example of marriage, that once we have died, we are no longer bound by the law. So it is for Christians. When we die with Christ, in baptism, we die to the "earning salvation by goodness" idea. We are now saved through faith in Christ! We are now FREE to serve God and do His will, as the Holy Spirit guides us. In so doing, we will produce fruit (good results) for God.

vs. 7-25 Paul shows that the Law is not at fault, but we are. The Law is holy, righteous and good and has made us aware of the evil in our lives. We, by realizing what sin is and doing it anyway, are the ones guilty of giving death an entryway into our lives.

Paul speaks concerning the struggle between good and evil in his life. Even though he knew what was right, he had difficulty at times, doing it. On the other hand, even though he knew what was wrong, he found himself giving into temptation and committing sin.

Paul seeks rescue and asks in verse 24, "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" He praises God, for the rescue has been accomplished through Jesus Christ!

SUMMARY: Paul has shown us that we will not be judged and condemned by the Law, for it has no power over us, since we have died to it when we accepted Jesus. Even yet, we continue to struggle between good and bad, but the victory is available through Christ!

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 8:

vs. 1-17:

Paul continues to speak about the victory for those who have accepted Christ as Savior of their lives. They will not be condemned, but will be saved because they are following the leading of God as they allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

Those who follow after the temptations of the world will perish, however. These people cannot please God and are destined to death unless they turn to Christ.

Those who are walking after the Spirit will find peace and life. They will turn their back on sin and enjoy a Father-Son relationship with God the Father. Most thrilling, they will share in eternal life with Christ, because they shared in His sufferings.

vs. 18-27 Paul reminds Christians, that the trials in this life will appear insignificant, when we go to Heaven and see our reward for our faith in Christ. This reward, is what all the world and all the creation is waiting for.

Paul also teaches us that the Spirit that we follow, also helps us to pray. It offers prayers to God, when we can't find the words. It prays on our behalf and God hears and responds to the Spirit's prayers.

vs. 28-39 Paul reminds us that God cares for all of His people and those who live for Him, He will see that EVERYTHING works out for their benefit. This promise is ONLY to believers. For Christians, we need to accept this promise in trust, realizing that there will be times when we fail to see how things are going to work out, but understanding that God will keep His promise. In this section about foreknowing and predestination, let us understand that God knows the future, but does not force us to react in a particular manner. He has given us freedom. Those that He predestined, are not people by name, but those who fulfill the requirements that He has laid out.

Paul then goes on to say, that if God has done all this, for those who will accept His Son in faith, then He will surely protect and care for us, no matter what the opposition. There is nothing that can come between us and the love of Jesus and God. Jesus has already overcome all the obstacles, when He lived here. There is nothing to fear! We are conquerors, because Christ has already fought the battles and Won.

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 9:

vs. 1-29:

Paul realizes that many of his race will perish. Even though God had worked so diligently with the Israelites, many have failed to place their faith in God. God has not failed, but instead the people themselves have failed. God is in control and chooses those who will receive the promises and salvation. Those who respond in faith, will be accepted and those who fail will be rejected. (NOTICE: The examples given by Paul: Isaac and Jacob, were choices which did not have to affect the unchosen's salvation. Pharaoh was raised up and God was able to use Pharaoh's responses to perform His will.)

Paul shows that when God was patient with those who were deserving of punishment, it was for the purpose of showing His mercy to mankind, and especially to those who had accepted Him.

God allowed even the Gentiles, even though they were "inferior" in the Jews' eyes, to become His people, thus fulfilling prophecy (Hosea 1:10; 2:23). God's chosen people, the Jews, were punished because of their unfaithfulness and almost entirely wiped out, yet the Lord, in mercy, saved some alive. This also fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 1:9; 10:22,23).

vs. 30-33

Paul shows how many of the Gentiles have become righteous in the sight of God, because of their faith in Christ. On the other hand, many of the Jews, who had been trying so hard to be righteous by the keeping of the Law, were unrighteous because they rejected God's Son. They allowed their unbelief in Christ to cause them to "fall" away whereas those who believe, will never be put to shame but shall be rewarded. While, by sinning. Sin is of no value. Those who were immersed (the baptism of the Bible is immersion: any other form is a later change made by man) have baptized into Christ's death so that we might also be like Him, by being raised to life again. Our death is to sin (pictured by the burial under water [our breathing has stopped and our eyes are closed]) and we are raised to now live for God (pictured by our being raised out of the water and resuming of our breathing). Just as Christ has overcome death and lives forever, so the promise of eternal life is now offered to all who will accept Him in faith and live for God.

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 7:

1. How long does the law have authority over a man?
2. What would release a woman from the law of marriage?
3. Why have we died to the law, through Jesus?
4. By having died to what had bound us, how are we now to serve?
5. What would Paul not know of, had it not been for the Law?
6. According to verse 9, what happened when the commandment came?
7. What is the law and the commandment? (see vs. 12)
8. According to verse 13, why did the commandment bring death?
9. According to verse 15, what did Paul do?
10. What is right there with Paul, when he wants to do good?
11. What question does Paul ask in verse 24?
12. To whom is Paul a slave, in his mind?

BONUS:

1. Explain what dying to the Law, means to you.
2. Does Paul's statements about sinning, even though he doesn't want to, make sense? Explain.
3. Do you see a struggle within yourself, over doing God's will and doing what is wrong? Explain.

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 8:

1. For whom, is there now, no condemnation?
2. How did God do, what the law was powerless to do?
3. How is the mind, controlled by the Spirit, described/
4. What will be given to those who have the Spirit of God living in them?
5. What does one need to do, to live? (see vs. 13)
6. What do we need to share in, so that we may also share in Christ's glory?
7. What are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us?
8. What do those, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, wait eagerly for?
9. What does the Spirit do, since we do not know what we ought to pray?
10. How does God work, in those who love Him?
11. What is the second question that Paul asks, in verse 31?
12. What can not separate us from the love of God?

BONUS:

1. What does, "living according to the Spirit" mean?
2. How does the knowledge of Heaven and eternal life, help you with today's problems?
3. What is your reaction to the fact that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ and God?

STUDY GUIDE

ROMANS 9:

1. What belongs to the people of Israel? (see vs. 4, 5)
2. Who are regarded as Abrahams offspring?
3. Of whom is it written, that God loved him and hated his brother?
4. Upon whom will God have mercy and compassion?
5. Why did God raise up Pharaoh?
6. What choice does the potter have?
7. According to verses 22 and 23; why did God bear with great patience, those who were prepared for destruction?
8. Who will God call "My people"?
9. What only would be saved, even though the Israelites were numerous?
10. Who would the Israelites have become like, if God had not left them descendants?
11. What did the Gentiles obtain, even though they did not pursue it?
12. Why did Israel not attain righteousness?

BONUS:

1. Does God predetermine who will be saved? Explain.
2. Will those who live "good" lives, be "good" enough to go to heaven? Explain