

The image shows the interior of the Colosseum in Rome at night. The structure is illuminated from within, highlighting the arches and the tiered seating areas. The top part of the image shows the upper levels of the arena, which are mostly empty and dark. The lower part shows the lower levels, with the arches and columns clearly visible. The text is overlaid on the image.

The Epistle to the

Romans

Chapter 7

Review

Chapter

- 1 Intro and background; Pagan Man
- 2 Moral Man; Religious Man
- 3 God's Greatest Problem
- 4 God's Greatest Gift
- 5 The Sequence to Maturity
- 6 Sin, no longer has to reign over us
- 7 Law School

Myths of Our Time

- Our culture is built on myths that are contrary to known truth.
 - Cf. Dave Breese's book, *Seven Men Who Rule the World From Their Graves*
- The Theory of Evolution goes far beyond biology and anthropology
 - It permeates our psychological concepts, our social concepts, and political philosophies
 - In court we excuse responsibility for crimes as the result of environmentally introduced factors

Myths of Our Time

The paradigm of the “Ascent of Man”

Is built on the erroneous view of man as
improving himself through education and
technology, et al.

It assumes that man develops in response to his
environment

It assumes that with the proper environment and
education that one can change the fundamental
nature of Man

This contradicts what the Scripture teaches
us:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and
desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:9

“desperately” = *anash*, to be sick, frail; desperate,
incurable; desperately wicked

Nowhere in Scripture is the heart of man cured

The miracle of regeneration is that we are given a *new*
heart

“Depravity of Man” is one of the most reluctantly
accepted doctrines of a serious Bible student

This is what Romans 7 clarifies for us.

Ultimate Commentary

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 15:4

“The New Testament is in the Old Testament
concealed;
The Old Testament is in the New Testament
revealed”
--Augustine

Caveats

- The treasure of our heritage, and the *patterns* that teach us...
- However, beware the lure of legalism
 - The Council in Jerusalem *Acts 15*
- Abraham was saved *before* he was circumcised, and before the law was given...

Caveats

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

Romans 3:20

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:28

The Law

The Mosaic Law is where the Jews and even many Christians go to try to find 'right' living. Now, Paul is going to show that the Mosaic Law has no claim on the believer.

Actually, the Law condemned man to die; it was a ministration of condemnation **2 Cor. 3:9**

In contrast we have been given the ministry of reconciliation **2 Cor. 5:18**

You don't appeal to the judge who sentenced you to die and ask him how you are going to live!

The Burden of the Law

Stephen, before the Sanhedrin, said that they had
“... received the law by the disposition of angels, and
have not kept it”

Acts 7:53

Peter calls it a yoke

“which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear”

Acts 15:10

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Romans 6:14

Chapter 7

Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

Romans 7:1-2

So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 7:3-4

Jurisdiction of the Law

- A believer identified with Jesus Christ in His death is no longer “under Law” 6:14
 - Paul’s readers were men who knew the Law
- But this statement was not restricted to Jewish believers
 - Gentiles also knew the principle that the Law has authority over a man only as long as he lives 6:9; 14
 - Paul illustrates this self-evident truth by an allegorical example:
 - In Christ, law-keepers are “adulterers”!*

For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

Romans 7:2

- A married woman (lit., “the under-a-man 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 (lit., “from the law of the man”)
- She is bound to him by marriage as her husband while he lives, and obviously his death frees her from that marriage

So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

Romans 7:3

- Paul is pointing out that if a wife marries (lit., “if she comes to”) another man while her husband is still alive, she is called (future tense, “shall be publicly known as”) *an adulteress*.

Jurisdiction of the Law

- Conversely, on the death of her husband she is free from that marriage 7:2
 - She is not an adulteress if she marries (lit., “even though she comes to”) another man.
 - A widow who marries again is not guilty of adultery.
- The Mosaic Law had no provision for a married woman to get a divorce.
 - Thus, she is a “type” of the believer.

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. **Romans 7:4**

- Speaking of the believer as the “Bride of Christ”
- Key to the entire Book of Romans.
 - Paul applies his illustration of marriage to the believer and the Law, as an allegorical example:
- 1st husband is the fallen Adamic nature;
- The 2nd husband is Christ.

Dead to the Law

- You also died (lit., “you were put to death”) to the Law.
 - Just as a believer “died to sin” 6:2
and so is “set free from sin” 6:18, 22
 - So, he also died to the Law and is separated and set free from it 6:14; Gal. 2:19
 - As a wife is no longer married to her husband when he dies, so a Christian is no longer under the Law.
 - This separation was through the body of Christ, that is, *because of Christ’s death on the cross*

Dead to the Law

- As a result Christians belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead **Rom 6:4, 9**
- God's purpose in all this is "that we might bear fruit to God." **Rom 6:22; Gal 5:22-23; Phil 1:11**
 - Only a person who is spiritually alive can bear spiritual fruit, that is, holy living cf. **John 15:4-5**
 - A person who is married to Christ should also bear spiritual progeny
- (Paul then moves from the second person plural ("you") to the first-person plural ("we"), including himself along with his readers)

For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Romans 7:5

“Were in the flesh” imperfect, constantly;
while we were “in” (under the domination of
self) the sin nature **Rom. 7:18, 25**

The sinful passions aroused by the Law were at
work in our bodies.

Purpose of the Law

It describes a believer before he was saved 6:19

The Law by its prohibitions aroused sinful passions,
as will be explained in vs 7-13

Paul repeatedly affirmed: *sin leads to death*

5:15, 17, 21; 6:16, 21, 23; 7:10-11, 13; 8:2, 6, 10, 13

The law energised our rebellion

The law cannot bring us into a righteous life.

It can only *demonstrate* our sinful nature.

If you understand this passage, you will understand
what so many have not been able to grasp:

What is the purpose of the law of God?

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

Romans 5:20

This strange thought echoes throughout Romans
The law was given so that sin might *increase*.

Paul is going to discuss this in more depth

When the law comes, we will sin more which will reveal to us our sin nature.

And that we, by our own effort, can't make it.

But now we are delivered from the law,
that being dead wherein we were held;
that we should serve in newness of spirit,
and not in the oldness of the letter.

Romans 7:6

“Delivered” = released from; unshackled

“held” = constantly bound by

Identified with Christ, believers are dead to
the Law

Like the widow released from marital obligations,
so believers are released from the Law and its
arousal to sin

But now we are delivered from the law,
that being dead wherein we were held;
that we should serve in newness of spirit,
and not in the oldness of the letter.

Romans 7:6

“So that we serve”: present tense: constantly serve
The purpose of this release “from the Law”
is so that we may serve (“be slaves”) in the new
way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the
written code

“slave[s]” in 6:6, 16 (3X), 17-18, 20, 22

Letter vs. Spirit

Letter

vs.

Spirit

Depends on the flesh

Rom 8:3

Produces rebellion

Rom 7:8

Results in more sin

Rom 5:20

Brings wrath

Rom 4:15

Not of faith

Gal 3:12

Kills

2 Cor 3:4-6; Gal 3:21

Depends upon God's power

Luke 23:49; Acts 1:8

Produces God's desires

Phil 2:13

Righteousness

Rom 8:4

Brings joy, peace, production

Gal 5:22, 23

By faith

Gal 5:5; 2 Cor 5:7

Gives life

Phil 2:12-13

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12-13

“work out” = Work to the outside the result that is already on the inside.

Why the Law was Given

1) Law was given to expose our sin nature;

7:7

2) To incite the sin nature to sin more 7:8-23

-Sin nature cannot be reformed.

3) To drive us to despair of self-effort 7:24, 25

4) To drive us to dependence upon the Holy Spirit alone 8:1-4

-These four points must be experienced before you can continue in the Spirit.

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. **Romans 7:7**

- “May it never be!”
- That which reveals sin cannot *be* sin.
 - “Sin” = singular: sin nature
 - “Known sin” = *ginosko*, to experience a knowledge of;
 - “Known lust” = *eido*, perceive, observe, understand; past knowledge, with results that go on
 - “Covet” = *epithumia*, desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust

The Law

Exodus 20:

- 1) No other gods before me v.3
- 2) No graven image v.4
- 3) Taking His name in vain v.7
- 4) Remembering the Sabbath v.8
- 5) Honor father and mother v.12
- 6) Do not murder v.13
- 7) Do not commit adultery v.14
- 8) Do not steal v.15
- 9) False witness v.16
- 10) Not desire the unavailable v.17

Why the Law was Given

- Do you “keep the ten commandments?”
 - (Or worse: “The Sermon on the Mount?”)
 - The Law as God sees it: **Matt 5-7**
 - To do so you can’t miss one point: **Jam 2:10**
Gal 3:10
- The Christian life isn’t difficult;
it is impossible!
- The Law’s “Do not covet” **Ex. 20:17**
makes people want to covet all the more

But sin, taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.
For without the law sin was dead. **Romans 7:8**

- “**dead**” : dormant
- Paul described how it worked.
 - The indwelling principle of sin, seizing the opportunity
(lit., “taking occasion” (a starting point))
- “**In me**” : autobiographical **v.7ff**
... and as believer!

But sin, taking occasion by the commandment,
wrought in me all manner of concupiscence.
For without the law sin was dead. **Romans 7:8**

- “Occasion” = *aphorme*:
 - a place from which a movement or attack is made, a base of operations; a military term;
 - Metaphore: that by which endeavor is excited and from which it goes forth;
 - that which gives occasion and supplies matter for an undertaking, the incentive ;
 - the resources we avail ourselves of in attempting or performing anything.

Apart From Law, Sin is Dead

- **The Law is not the cause of the act of sin;**
 - The principle or nature of sin within an individual is.
 - The Law's specific commandments stimulate the sin principle into acts that violate the commandments
 - And give those acts the character of transgression
4:15; cf. 3:20; 5:13b, 20a
- ***Apart from Law, sin is dormant.***
 - This does not mean that sin has no existence without the Law
5:13
 - But without the Law sin is less active, for the Law arouses "sinful passions"
7:5

For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Romans 7:9

When was this?

When he reached the age of accountability

“**Alive once**”= prior to his awareness and understanding of the full impact of God’s commandments

This verse is also viewed as a basis for children being saved prior to the age of accountability

2 Sam 12:15-23

And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. **Romans 7:10**

- Paul then understood.

For sin, taking occasion by the commandment,
deceived me, and by it slew me. **Romans 7:11**

Apart from the Law, the principle of sin was
dormant and inactive;

But using the commandments of the Law, it
demonstrated its controlling force over one's
actions.

So sin “deceived” him (“led him astray”)
and put him to death **2 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 2:14**

How? **By luring him to try to live for God
*by his own effort...***

Wherefore the law is holy, and the
commandment holy, and just, and good.

Romans 7:12

The law is designed to show his
helplessness.

Paul continues to explore the paradox:

Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

Romans 7:13

It is the sin nature - revealed by our inability to keep the law - that is our *enemy within*

Even the Believer can't keep the law.

Trying to keep codes stimulates the old nature,
rebellion

For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am
carnal, sold under sin.

Romans 7:14

“I am” present tense, 1st person:
Autobiographical

“The Law is spiritual”

v.12

The Law comes from God who is Spirit and
expresses God’s will for human living.

John 4:24

- Paul said the problem is that “I am carnal”
(*sarkikos*, “fleshy, made of flesh”),
unspiritual. *Present tense: continual*

Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

John 11:21-24

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

John 11:25-27

And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Jesus wept.

Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

John 11:34-37

Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

John 11:38-39

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

John 11:41-43

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

John 11:44-45

Lazarus went through three stages:

1) He was **dead**

2) He was raised but **defeated**

- bound in grave clothes

3) He was **dangerous** to God's enemies

Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

John 11:53

Sin Deceived Him

Three Categories of people:

The **Natural Man** -lost 1 Cor 2, 3 (1 Cor 2:14) Rom 1-3

The **Carnal Man** -saved but undelivered 1 Cor 3, Rom 8

The **Spiritual Man**

Here Paul is dealing with *believers*

They are alive, dead to the law, but still defeated
Because they are trying to keep the Law under
their own strength.

Only way to keep the Law of God is by the Holy Spirit!

Sin Deceived Him

- In relating his personal experience in 7:14-25
 - Paul consistently used the present tense: (whereas he had previously used the imperfect and aorist tenses)
 - He is describing his *present* conflict as a Christian with indwelling sin and its *continuing* efforts to control his daily life.

For that which I do I allow not: for what I would,
that do I not; but what I hate, that do I

Romans 7:15

“For I am constantly not practicing what I would like to do, but I keep on doing that which I hate.”

- Yet this is the guy that God selected to
 - Write 14 epistles;
 - Bring the Gospel to the limits of the Roman Empire;
 - Talk about dedication and commitment!
- Yet, here, out of utter despair, come these letters of victory...

If then I do that which I would not, I consent
unto the law that it is good.

Romans 7:16

- Key insight, contrary to all human nature:
-“I agree with the law that it is good and right.”

(Here the Greek word for “good” is
kalos, “beautiful, noble, excellent,”
whereas in **verse 12** it is
agathos, “useful, upright.”)

Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:17

“sin” = the sin nature

This does not mean Paul was avoiding personal responsibility for his actions;

He was speaking of the conflict between his desires and the sin nature within him.

[Cf. Flip Wilson theology: “The devil made me do it.”]

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:18

Note the qualifying phrase: *in my flesh* (old self).

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak”

Matt 26:41

For the good that I would I do not:
but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Romans 7:19

All present tense verbs: *constant action*.
(A restatement of v.15)

Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:20

The source of sin is the old nature.

-God has already judged it, and it has no more right to rule over me: it is put to death **Rom 6**

Paul recognized that even as a believer

-He had an indwelling principle of sin that:

- Once owned him as a slave
- Still expressed itself through him to do things he did not want to do and not to do things he desired to do.

This is a problem common to all believers.

I find then a law, that, when I would do good,
evil is present with me.

Romans 7:21

Here (also in **8:2**), “**law**” (*nomos*) means principle.
This law or principle is the reality of ever-present
evil in an individual whenever he wants to do
good.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward
man:

Romans 7:22

- The “inward man” Cf. 2 Cor 4:16; Eph 3:16
- Delight in God’s Law was repeatedly the psalmist’s response
Psalm 119:16, 24, 47; cf. Ps. 1:2
- Because of regeneration, a believer has a new nature or *capacity* for loving spiritual truths.

The *real You...*

Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not:
whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither
known him.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that
doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is
righteous.

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the
devil sinneth from the beginning. For this
purpose the Son of God was manifested, that
he might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:6-8

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin;
for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot
sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:9

- Most misunderstood passage (major cults):
- **No one born of God keeps on sinning;**

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin;
for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot
sin, because he is born of God. **1 John 3:9**

- Most misunderstood passage (major cults):
- **No one born of God keeps on sinning;**

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

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:22-24

- Keep on being renewed; present tense, passive voice (Action is received): allow it to happen
- How: in the Spirit to renew your mind **Rom 12:1-2**

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.

Romans 7:23

- Recognizing the facts of experience,
 - Paul saw another law or principle at work within him
 - This is the principle of sin
 - Paul called it “sin living in me” **Rom. 7:17, 20**
- The new nature is called “the law” of the “mind”
 - Because it has the capacity for perceiving and making moral judgments

O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? **Romans 7:24**

- This is a saved man.
- The word *wretched* carries with it the note of exhaustion because of the struggle. “Who is going to deliver me?”
-He is helpless.
- Paul recognised that *as long as he was in his mortal body* he would face the conflict with the indwelling sin principle

And would have defeat in his own strength.

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.

Romans 7:25

Paul's answer to this question was triumphant and immediate!

Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Run, run and do, the Law commands
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
Better news the Gospel brings,
It bids me fly and gives me wings.

McGee, J. Vernon: *Thru the Bible Commentary*

Next Session

Deliverance in detail:

Study **Chapter 8**

One of believers' favorite chapters in
the New Testament...



Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply