

# THE LAW

## ROMANS 7:7-13

Text:

Introduction:

We have learned the truth that all men are sinners before the Lord and that men are in need of a Savior, chapters 1-3. We have learned that true righteousness and salvation come only through the exercise of faith, chapters 4-5. We have learned that in Jesus Christ, we are dead to sin and to the Law, chapters' 6-7a.

In the verses before us this evening, Paul is going to illustrate his teachings about the Law of God by sharing with us an intimate look at his own life.

In these verses, Paul is going to reveal a side of himself that most of us try to keep deeply buried.

Notice:

# 1. THE LAW REVEALS SIN (VS.7)

## **Romans 7:7**

<sup>7</sup>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.

Paul opens this section with a question: "*Is the law sin?*" Of course not! The Law came from the Lord and therefore cannot be evil. However, while the Law is good, it is also vital to a proper understanding of the nature of sin.

Paul reveals to us the truth that it was the holy Law of God that taught him what he came to know about sin. He mentions the sin of lust and tells us that had the Law not said, "Thou shalt not covet", he would have never known what lust was.

He isn't blaming his sin on the Law, he is merely pointing out the truth that the Law made plain exactly what sin really was. The Law identifies sin!

The bottom line of all this is that the Law reveals the sinfulness of human flesh through our actions, but it also reveals the wretchedness of the human heart!

## 2. THE LAW RUINS SINNERS (VS. 9-11)

### Romans 7:9-11

<sup>9</sup> For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. <sup>10</sup> And the commandment, which *was ordained* to life, I found *to be* unto death. <sup>11</sup> For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew *me*.

- (VS 9) In these verses, the Paul tells us that there was a time in his life when he felt alive. When he was following after the Law and was keeping it externally, he did so because he thought that it was the means to his salvation.

He kept the Law in an effort to gain eternal life. And, he was doing quite well.

### Philippians 3:4-6

<sup>4</sup> Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: <sup>5</sup> Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

### 2 Corinthians 11:18-29

<sup>18</sup> Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. <sup>19</sup> For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye *yourselves* are wise. <sup>20</sup> For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour *you*, if a man take *of you*, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. <sup>21</sup> I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? so *am* I. Are they Israelites?

so *am* I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so *am* I. <sup>23</sup> Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. <sup>24</sup> Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. <sup>25</sup> Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; <sup>26</sup> *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; <sup>27</sup> In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. <sup>28</sup> Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

- (VS 10) Paul is telling us here that he had trusted the Law to give him eternal life, but in the end, all the Law could deliver was condemnation, death and an eternity in Hell!

The Law cannot save! Keeping lists of do's and don'ts cannot save. The Law can be the instrument God uses to bring us to life, but the Law itself can never give life!

- (VS. 11) Sin had taken the opportunity the Law had given it in the life of Paul and had lulled him into believing that a life lived keeping the Law was a life that would be saved.

### 3. THE LAW REFLECTS SIN (VS. 12-13)

#### **Romans 7:12-13**

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. <sup>13</sup> 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.

- (VS 12) Paul's conclusion is that the Law is holy, just and good. If there is a problem it's with the offender and not with the Law.

There are those in our day who do not like the Bible to be preached in its entirety. They are opposed to preachers naming sin and holding people to God's standards.

There is nothing wrong with our Bible, and it needs to be preached. The problem is with those who are hearing the Word of God preached. Their hearts are evil!

- (VS 13) Paul tells us that the Law was given to reveal the truth about sin. You see, sin is so deceptive that it can take the Law, which was given as an instrument of life, and twist it into an instrument of death. The Bible is clear that the Law was given to us to point us to Jesus.

### **Galatians 3:24**

<sup>24</sup> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

It was given so that man could see his need of a Savior and then turn to Him and be saved. It was never given as a means to righteousness or salvation! It was given as a signpost to point out the oath into life.

The Law can never save the soul, but it can point us to the One Who can.