

- Chapters 5 and 6 have shown us the terrible principle which *man* introduced into the world, **SIN**, and the relation of the believer to that principle; **he has died to sin.**
- But there is another thing which has been introduced into the world by *God* -- It came two thousand five hundred years later than the introduction of sin -- and that is **the law**, and **we have to learn in what relation the believer stands to the law.**

# CHRIST, THE LAW AND THE GOSPEL

## Lesson 9



- ❖ This is perhaps, to many, more difficult to understand, for this is a question of a rule which God Himself brought in, and which has **divine authority and power** in every conscience of men to whom it comes.
- ❖ It is of the greatest importance that we should be known in what relation the Christian stands to the law.
- ❖ Our Christian liberty depends on our knowing of law.
  - ❖ Israel received the law by the disposition of angels, but they did not keep it.

**Paul brought the guilt of law breaking on their consciences in the early chapters of Romans.**

**In chapter 2 he speaks of those who rested in the law, and boasted in it, who had the form of knowledge and of truth in the law, but who dishonored God by breaking it.**



**In chapter 3 that "*by law is knowledge of sin.*"**

**In making known what God required, it gave man a sense of how righteous and holy God is.**

**But the more distinctly this made itself felt as a requirement on God's part to which man must answer the more was the inability felt to do so.**

Now in chapter 7 Paul speaks "*to those knowing law,*" and he lays down the **principle**

*"that law rules over a man as long as he lives."*

*According to Webster, a principle is "the law of nature [or the method] by which a thing operates."*

There are natural principles and there are spiritual principles.

**Our Father works according to His spiritual principles to fulfill His purpose in our lives.**

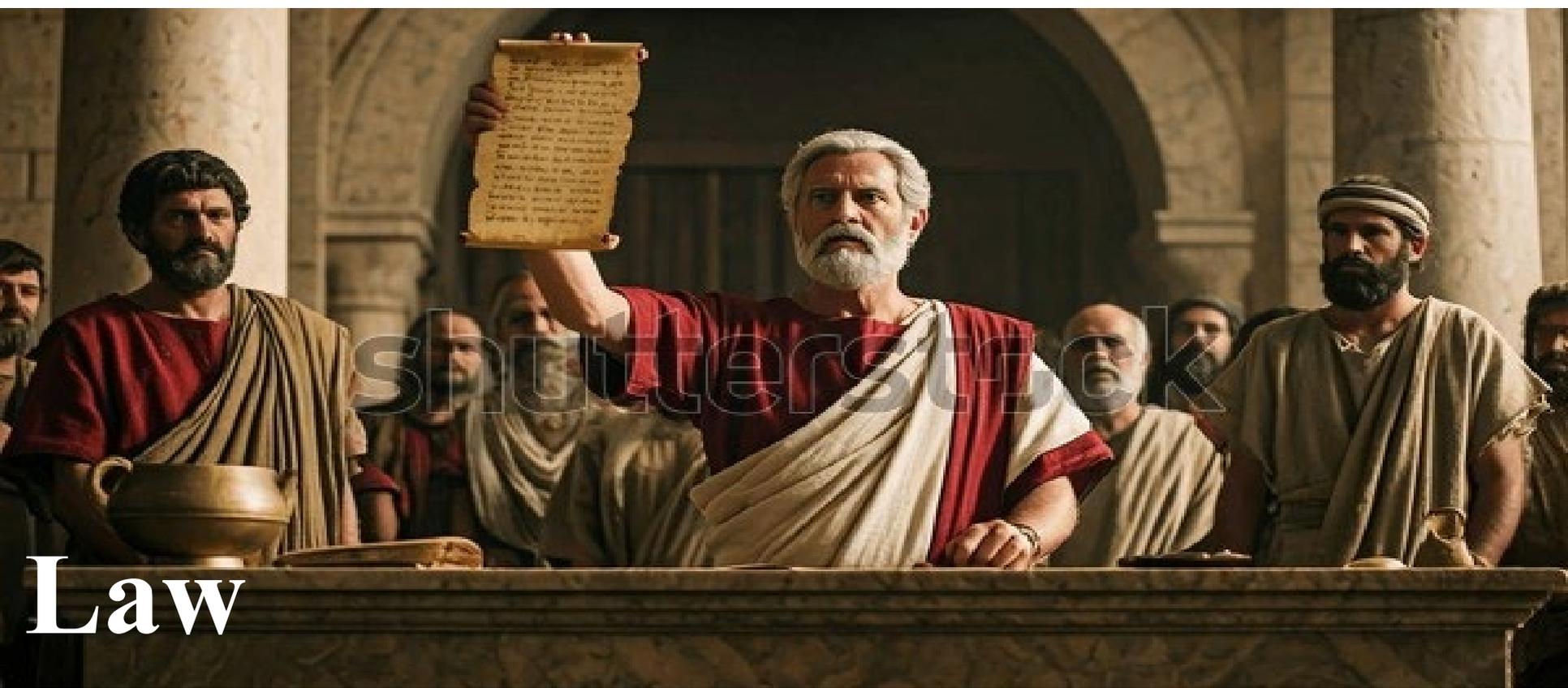
Genesis 1:11-12 (NASB77) <sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit **after their kind**, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so. <sup>12</sup>And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed **after their kind**, and trees bearing fruit, with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.

<sup>1</sup>*Or do you **not know**, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know ~~the~~ law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?*

## *QUESTION?*

*DO YOU NOT KNOW* from NOEO- TO KNOW OR UNDERSTAND and **a** (a negative particle)

**agnoeō** – ignorant-not understand



# Law

**(1): a binding custom or practice of a community : a rule of conduct or action prescribed or formally recognized as binding or enforced by a controlling authority to control human conduct.**

**(2): the whole body of such customs, practices, or rules**

**Webster**

**Rom. 6:14, "You are not **under law**, but under **grace**."**

- To be **under law** is to be a person obligated to obey God's law.
- But the **law gives neither** the desire nor the power to obey its instructions.
- Instead, **it brings out sin even more**,
- Because its very presence **incites rebellion** in the totally depraved sin nature.

**Rom. 5:20 (NASB77) <sup>20</sup>And the Law came in that **the transgression might increase; .....****

## UNDER LAW

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- Judged by Law
- Not changed by Law
- Ultimately condemned by Law

## UNDER GRACE

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- Forgiven by Grace
- Changed by Grace
- Empowered by Grace

**To be under grace is to be a believer, who has had the power of the sin nature broken in his life so that he does not need to obey it anymore.**



As the poet says,



**"Do this and live,  
the law commands,**

**but gives me neither  
feet nor hands.**

**A better word the  
gospel brings.**

**It bids me fly and  
gives me wings."**

What happens when a person becomes a believer and is included in the death of Christ on the cross?



*<sup>6</sup> Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;*

**<sup>7</sup>FOR HE WHO HAS DIED IS FREED FROM SIN.**

## What was the subject of chapter 6?

- We all have a sin nature.

## How do we get out from under its domination?

- We die to it in Christ's death.

Faith in Christ does not rejoin the Adam Lineage to God, on the contrary God recreates us in Christ as a new creature, new being.

*2 Cor. 5:17 (NASB77) <sup>17</sup>Therefore if any **man is in Christ, he is a new creature**; the old things passed away; behold, **new things have come.***

*<sup>1</sup>Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has **jurisdiction** over a person as long as he lives?*

## **Jurisdiction**

**Kurieuei- supreme authority over**

**as long as he lives**

Paul's purpose now is to press home the point that the believer is not under law anymore (vv. 1-6),

- **When a Christian puts himself under law and thus failing to avail himself of the resources of grace is a defeated Christian, his own experience before he came into the knowledge of Romans 6.**
- **Paul says that it is a matter of common knowledge that the (civil) law can **exercise dominion** over a person only as long as he lives.**
- **When he dies, he has passed out of the realm where that law could have jurisdiction over him.**

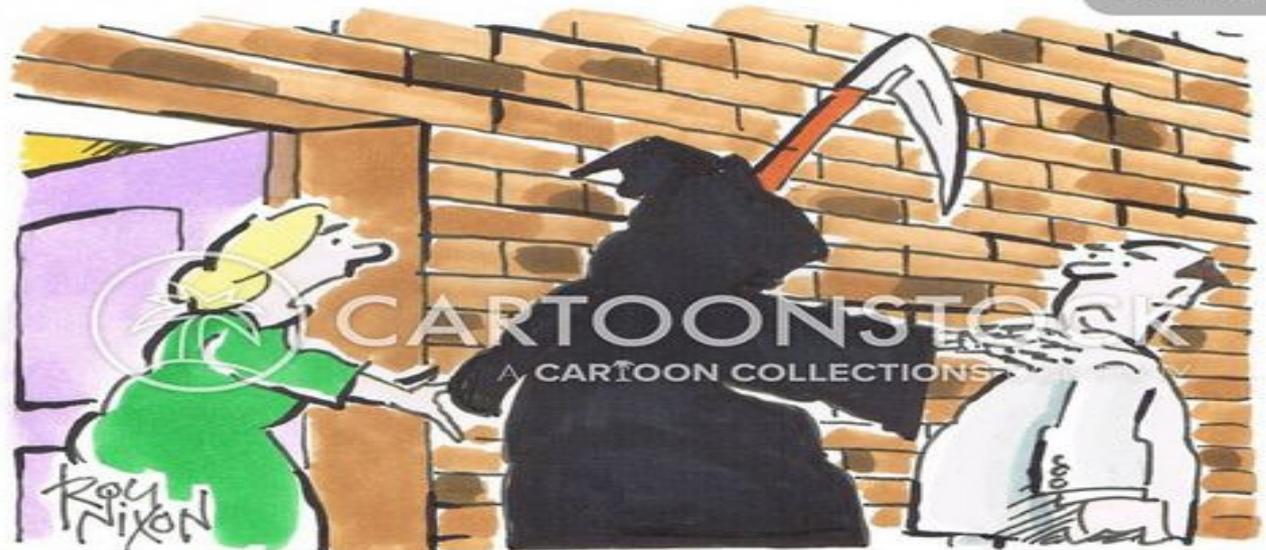
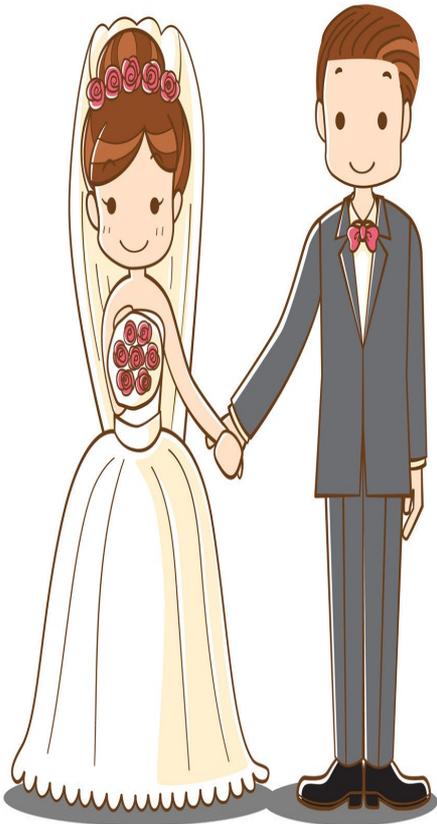
- **In the same way, the law of God can have dominion over a person as long as he remains within the domain where the law has jurisdiction, namely, in his unsaved state.**

- **But when a believing sinner has been identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Ch. 6), he has passed out of the jurisdiction where the law holds sway. He has ceased to be an unsaved person and has become a saved individual.**

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*<sup>2</sup>For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.*

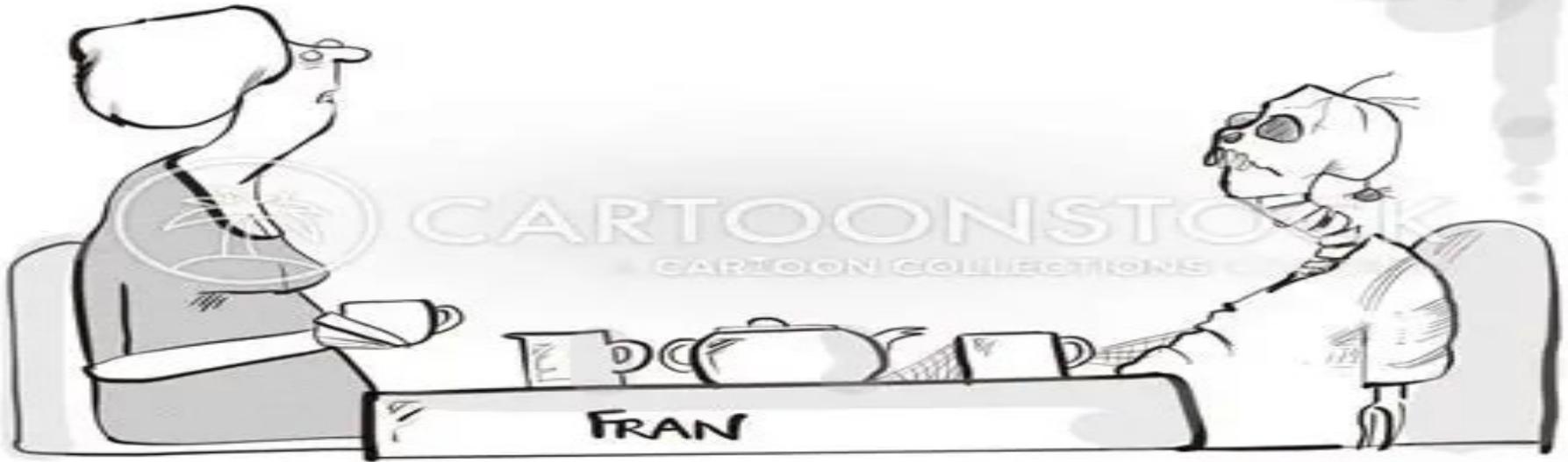
The husband represents the law who rules and has dominion-



Don't I even get a kiss goodbye?

*<sup>3</sup>So then if, while her husband is living, she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law (**of her husband**) , so that she is not an adulteress, though she is joined to another man.*

- ❑ **"the law of her husband,"** her legal connection with him.
- ❑ Law, in vv. 1-2, is represented by *the husband* who rules (has *dominion*).
- ❑ On the death of the husband the woman is released. Rom7:2-3 **Paul gives the illustration of husband and wife, to show that death alone separates one from the authority of the law.**



**I want a divorce, we never talk any more!**

**When the husband dies, the wife dies (*is brought to nothing*) so far as the marriage relation is concerned..... *if her husband is dead, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress, though being married to another man.***

## **Not law, but grace; not I, but Christ.**

- *The **principle of law** applied to the believer dooms him to Romans Seven.*
- *The **principle of law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** delivers him to Romans Eight.*
- Like all else, the law question must be settled *doctrinally.*
- In [Rom. 7](#) Paul is talking about the Christian's relationship to law in general, including the Mosaic.
- The Law would condemn you to hell; Grace has positioned you in heaven.

## **Romans 7:1-3**

- **Death alone frees from the law.**
- **Unless one knows that he has intelligently died to the law, he will remain in bondage to it.**
- **Paul did not tell them that they were to rely upon the Spirit to enable them to keep the law.**
- **The Scriptures teach us that the Holy Spirit, "*the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,*" ministers Christ to the Christian, not law.**