



Slaves to Righteousness – Romans 6:19

# Sequence of Romans

## Unbelievers

Condemnation upon all mankind - 1:18-3:20

Positional & Conditional

## Believers

Righteousness Imputed – Justification 3:21-4:25
In Adam & In Christ 5:1-21
Dead to sin Chapter 6
Dead to the law Chapter 7
Ministry of the Holy Spirit Chapter 8
Practical Application 12 – 15:13

Positional

## Israel

Chapter 9-11

Positional & Conditional

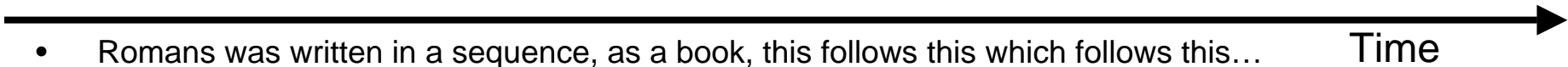
Positional

Positional & Conditional

Positional & Conditional

Positional & Conditional

Conditional



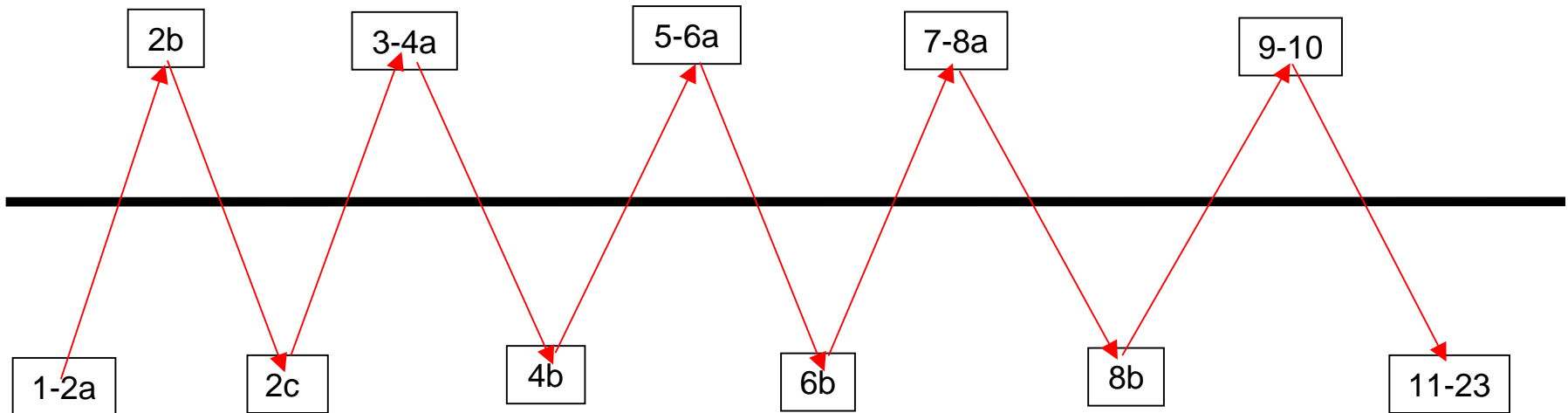
- Romans was written in a sequence, as a book, this follows this which follows this...
- Chapters 4-8 are to be seen as truths in parallel - true from the time of salvation for each believer and to be believed in and appropriated all at the same time as a unit
- Chapter 6 is to be seen in light of seven and eight, seven in light of six and eight, eight in light of six and seven.



Slaves to Righteousness – Romans 6:20-23

# Position and Condition in Romans 6

## Position



## Condition

Note: some times a verse can be either positional or conditional – please allow interpretative room for this



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- Questions to consider:
  - What questions/views is Paul responding to?
  - Who is the 'I' referring to?
  - What is God's intent for Romans seven?
- Culturally, the writing style of Romans for a number of chapters is known as "diatribe": questions as if from an imaginary skeptical & antagonistic heckler.

**Imaginary Rabbi Heckler**

**Paul**

Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? (6:1)	May it never be! (6:2)
Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? (6:15)	May it never be! (6:15)
Is the law sin? (7:7)	May it never be! (7:7)



## Romans

### Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

#### *Pharisaical Viewpoint*

#### *Paul*

You are under the law until freed from it by death	You have been freed from it through death with Christ
Being that you are freed from the law at death - obey it while you can (alive)	You cannot obey the law
The sin nature can be overcome by the law	Law actually arouses the sin nature and the sin nature ends up taking over
The law is good	The law is good
Law is your life	Law brings death – Christ is your life



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- Personal pronoun 'I' – who is this referencing?
  - Until this point in Romans Paul has used the plural pronoun 'we', but now he switches to the singular pronoun 'I'.
  - Why the switch and what is he talking about?
  - Verses 7-13 possibilities are (and there may be more)
    - The passage is strictly autobiographical
    - That Paul is using the first person singular to depict the experience of the typical Jewish individual
    - He is speaking in the name of Adam
    - He is presenting the experience of the Jewish people as a whole
    - He speaks in the name of mankind as a whole
    - Paul is using the first person singular in a generalizing way without intending a specific reference to any particular individual or clearly defined group
  - Verses 14-25 possibilities are (and there may be more)
    - It is autobiographical, the reference being to Paul's present experience as a Christian
    - It is autobiographical, the reference being to his past experience (before conversion) as seen by him at the time referred to
    - It is autobiographical, the reference being to his past-conversion but seen by him now in the light of his Christian faith



### Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- It presents the experience of the non-Christian Jew, as seen by himself
- It presents the experience of the non-Christian Jew, as seen through Christian eyes
- It presents the experience of the Christian who is living at a level of the Christian life which can be left behind, who is still trying to fight the battle in his own strength
- It presents the experience of the Christians generally, including the very best and most mature

List taken from, An Eye For An "I" by D. Wayne Stiles, II, Th.M.

- We are not going to answer this question, saying which one it is from the list.
  - For this class we will view Paul in verses 7-25 as a believer reflecting back on his life
  - Verses 7 & 8 are general truths about sin's relationship to the law
  - Verse 9 onward tell how these general truths affected Paul's life personally
  - We will use this view in explaining the verses but this is not the focus. The bigger picture is, what is God, through His inspired word, wanting to communicate to us about the law, sin and living under the law?



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- God's intent for Romans 7:7-25
  - The law is no help
    - The law cannot bring a person to justification (Romans 3:19-20)
    - The law cannot bring a person to sanctification (Romans 7)
  - Romans 7:7-25 is describing a person who is trying to live the Christian life by the law – through their own efforts and strength
    - Showing that man cannot live the Christian life by the law
    - Showing the struggle and frustration that a person goes through when trying to live the Christian life under the law.
- What shall we say then? (vs. 7) (Where was this also used?)
  - Romans 6:1 – exact same Greek phrase
- Is the law sin? (vs. 7)
  - 7:1-6 clearly show how believers are dead to or separated from the law – the natural question to follow would be, 'is the law sin?'
  - 'the law' – referring to the Mosaic law and other law principles
  - If it was God's intent for believers to die to or be separated from the law, then the law must be sin – right?



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- May it never be/God forbid (vs. 7) (where was this also used?)
  - Romans 6:2 & 15
  - Law is not sin, in fact ‘the law is holy, and the commandment holy and righteous and just’ - verse 12
- But - on the contrary (vs. 7)
  - Strong contrast here as he begins to define the purpose of the law
  - Is the law sin? No way!! But . . . Purpose is explained
- I would not have come to know sin except through the law (vs. 7)
  - The purpose of the law is to show man their sin
  - Even though the law is not sin – the law and sin have a definite relationship, that is ‘the law brings the knowledge of sin’
  - Remember the Pharisee said you can overcome the sin nature through the law. Here Paul is saying the law brought about the knowledge of sin – and the sin nature takes over
  - ‘Know’ here carries with it the idea of defining. The law defines sin for man and once it is defined – sin is experienced in a greater way





### Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- General principle here for believers and unbelievers
  - “Suppose a man determined to drive his automobile to the very limit of its speed. If . . . Signs along the road would say, No Speed Limit, the man’s only thought would be to press his machine forward. But now suddenly he encounters a road with frequent signs limiting speed to thirty miles an hour. The man’s will rebels, and his rebellion is aroused still further by threats: Speed Limit Strictly Enforced. Now the man drives on fiercely, conscious both of his desire to ‘speed’, and his rebellion against restraint. The speed limit signs did not create the wild desire to rush forward: that was there before. But the notices brought the man into conscious conflict with authority.”  
Dr. Constable’s Notes on Romans
  - When a law is established to prohibit something the natural tendency of people is to resist.
  - When I tell Henry don’t do this or that, often times I am establishing a desire in him ‘to do it’, which was not there before.
- I would not have known about coveting if the law had said, ‘You shall not covet’ (vs. 7)
  - Coveting/Desire is a specific example from the Mosaic law



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- Because of the law, sin is defined – we come to know that coveting is prohibited by God
- Law comes in and says don't covet – then I realize that the desire in me to covet is something that God prohibits.
- But sin (enter the problem) taking opportunity through the commandment (vs. 8)
  - The problem is not the law but sin
  - The sin nature sees the law and wants to do what is prohibited and does not want to do what is commanded (verse 15 describes this)
  - The result is:
- Commandment produced in me coveting of every kind (vs. 8)
  - People are made acutely aware of the their sin – verse 13 -14
  - Through the law sin is defined and we come to understand and recognize the real nature and power of sin.



Law is no help – Romans 7:7-8

- Apart from the law sin is dead (vs. 8)
  - When there is no law to activate the sin nature in that sense sin is dead
  - Was sin present before the law?
    - Romans 5:13a – Yes
    - The Israelites defiantly sinned before God gave them the Mosaic law
    - Prior to the law sin was not being activated and aroused as it was after the giving of the law
    - In this sense sin was dead in respect to its relationship to the law – because there was no law
  - Sin is dead
    - Dead meaning powerless
    - Without the law sin is powerless
    - Sin has to partner with the law for it to be as powerful as it can be
    - Sin is not seen for its destructive force and nature without the law defining it and putting a spot light on it