



Law is no help – Romans 7:9-11

- Review
 - Until this point in Romans Paul has used the plural pronoun 'we', but now he switches to the singular pronoun 'I', 'me', 'my' – used over 40 times
 - View Paul in verses 7-25 as a believer reflecting back on his life as a believer
 - The law cannot bring justification or sanctification
 - 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
 - Law is not sin, in fact 'the law is holy, and the commandment holy and righteous and just' - verse 12
 - The purpose of the law is to show man their sin
 - The problem is not the law but sin
 - Through the law sin is defined and we come to understand and recognize the real nature and power of sin.
 - Sin is not seen for its destructive force and nature without the law defining it and putting a spot light on it



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- Verses 7-11
 - Verses 7 & 8 are general truths about sins relationship to the law
 - Verse 9 onward tell how these general truths affected Paul's life personally
 - I was once alive apart from the law (verse 9) What does this mean?
 - Obviously Paul was not alive before the Mosaic law was given
 - Before salvation Paul was not alive apart from the law but he was a keeper of the law - Philippians 3:4-9
 - Is Paul referring to his life immediately after he was saved before he tried to keep the law as a believer?
 - At some time in Paul's Christian life he fell back under the law because he describes it here in Romans seven.
 - Paul also wrote to the Galatians who had also fallen back under the law – Galatians 3:1-3
- Does he mean that he was by faith walking in the Spirit, spiritually alive enjoying fellowship with the Lord, not walking under the law.



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- This commandment came, sin became alive and I died
 - When the commandment came – the spot light of the law came
 - The commandment defined sin and he became aware of the sin nature and its power.
 - Sin became alive – I was walking in the sin nature under the law
 - ‘I died’ what does died mean here?
 - loss of fellowship
- And this commandment (verse 10)
 - Specifically referring to coveting/desiring but also includes other law principles
- Which was to result in life
 - The law was to show the glory, holiness, righteousness of God
 - In OT referred to law as bringing life –
 - Leviticus 18:5 – So, you shall keep my statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does them; I am the Lord
 - The Mosaic law could never and was never intended to bring eternal life – the idea of life here is fellowship – the commandment was to result in or bring fellowship with God



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- Proved to result in death
 - What was intended to result in fellowship with the Lord ended up resulting in loss of fellowship – death.
 - When Paul was walking under the law, even though the law is good, sin took advantage of the law and magnified sin.
 - So, it resulted in death – loss of fellowship
- For sin taking opportunity through the law (verse 11)
 - The problem is sin not the law
 - Again the relationship of the sin and the law - Even though the law is not sin – the law and sin have a definite relationship, that is ‘the law brings the knowledge of sin’
 - The purpose of the law is to show man their sin
 - Sin is aroused by the law (vs. 5)
 - The sin nature sees the law and wants to do what is prohibited and does not want to do what is commanded
 - Through the law sin is defined and we come to understand and recognize the real nature and power of sin.



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- Taking opportunity through the law
 - Remember story “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
 - Law was saying do this and don’t do that and the sin nature said just the opposite.
- Deceived me
 - Paul was deceived by sin, not by the law
 - Sin took advantage and deceived
 - Sin leads people to do the opposite of the law and this produced an extreme self focus instead of a God focus
- And through it killed me/brought death
 - Again death meaning separation



Romans

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Summary

- I was once alive apart from the law
 - By faith walking in the Spirit resting in Grace – not walking in the flesh under the law
- Commandment came, sin became alive, I died
 - Because of falling back under the law - no longer walking in the Spirit but walking in the sin nature, under the law no longer enjoying fellowship with God
- The commandment which was to result in life
 - Commandment was intended to bring fellowship
- Proved to result in death for me
 - Commandment ended up resulting in loss of fellowship
- Sin taking opportunity through the commandment
 - The sin nature was aroused by the law
- Deceived me and through it killed me
 - Deceived and brought lose of fellowship

Walking in the very thing that Paul said we have been positionally freed from



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- Practical Questions:
 - Can anyone relate in your own life to what is being described here?
 - Why does this happen in the lives of believers?
 - Spiritually unaware or ignorant?
 - Just disobedient? – disobedient to faith, not believing and reckoning on God's Word – rejecting the Word of God
 - Would rather be involved with some sort of personal law system?
 - Look ahead, how do we get out of this bondage ?
 - It is a what or a who?
 - Romans 6:14
 - Galatians 5:1
 - Romans 8:1-4
 - 2 Corinthians 3:17-18



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- God's intent for Romans 7
 - To communicate that believers are freed from the law and joined to Christ
 - To show that man cannot live the Christian life under the law – through their own strength or efforts – and the struggle and frustration that this brings
 - Romans 7:7-24 is not something that God leads us into
 - It shows us sin - points us to God - conforming us to the image of Christ
 - Every believer at times does things that they do not want to do and at times the things that they want to do they cannot do. But this is not God's intent for our lives nor is it God's intent that we remain there. But God will most certainly use these times in our lives for good as God works all things together for (Rom. 8:28-29) and there is no condemnation as we will get to in Chapter eight
 - It is not something that is prescribed by God
 - It may describe what some people go through but is not prescribed by God for spiritual growth



Romans

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- Romans seven is not a place to dwell in or hang out in - people should not be stuck in Romans Seven
- Romans seven describes a place where believers will be when not walking with the Lord
- It is a warning of what can happen when depending on legal methods - Paul is giving first hand person testimony of his realization of this - he is saying - I have been there done that, don't go this way