

Comments About Romans 7

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 7.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Freed from the law

The apostle Paul brought up an analogy to those who "know the law" (Romans 7:1).

- The law has dominion over a person as long as he lives (verse 1).

In the marriage example listed in verses 2 and 3, I am going to quote the gender-specific instructions as Paul apparently wrote them.

- Death released a woman from the law of her husband (verse 2).
- If a wife married another while her husband lived, she was called an adulteress (verse 2). If her husband died, she is free from that law so that she is no adulteress (same verse).
- Likewise, disciples have become dead to the law because Christ died and was raised from the dead (verse 4).
- The passions of sin were identified by the law (verse 5).
- We have been delivered by the law to walk in newness of life (verse 6).

Another ridiculous question

In the article about Romans 3, I mentioned that at various junctures in the book of Romans, Paul asked questions that could be considered ridiculous. (Some examples are Romans 3:3-8; 3:21 and 6:1-2.) In each case, he answered "God forbid" in the King James Version ("certainly not" in the New King James Version).

Verse 7 is another example.

- Is the law sin (verse 7)?
- Paul described the purpose of the law (verses 7-8)

Romans 7:7—"I would not have known sin except through the law."

Romans 7:8—"Apart from the law, sin was dead."

■ Paul mentioned that the law brought death—because the law identified sin (verses 9-11).

Spiritual law

■ Notice the positive way Paul described the law.

Romans 7:12—“Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”

Paul again noted that the law is good (verse 14).

Romans 7:14—“For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

Sold under sin

Paul proceeded to describe his battle with sin (verses 15-23).

Notice some highlights.

Romans 7:15—“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

Romans 7:19—“For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice..

Romans 7:20-22—“Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.”

Who will deliver?

■ Paul asked who would deliver him from the body of sin (verse 24).

■ He answered in verse 25.

Romans 7:25—“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.”