

"The Doctrine of Sanctification"

Romans 5:12-8:13

Part 16

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we started to look at Paul's response to his Jewish critics concerning the Law. Paul has made several points very clear so far in the book of Romans:

1. The Law cannot save us.

Romans 3:19-20a

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

²⁰ **Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight:**

2. The Law cannot sanctify us.

I need to take a moment here and explain sanctification because we are studying the Doctrine of Sanctification and I remembered that I neglected to explain what sanctification is.

To be "sanctified" means "to be set apart as holy". Sanctification has three stages:

- a. **Positional Sanctification** - This takes place the moment we are saved when we are placed into the body of Jesus Christ. We are POSITIONALLY set apart as holy in the body of Jesus Christ. This is our position.

1 Corinthians 6:11

¹¹ *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but **ye are sanctified**, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

- b. **Progressive/Practical Sanctification** - This is what is taking place in our lives right now. Progressive sanctification means that we are BEING set apart from day to day as we live our lives in the power of the Spirit. This process takes place as we apply Romans 6 to our lives.

Romans 6:11-14

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

¹³ Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

³ For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

⁴ That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

This is only accomplished in the power of the Holy Spirit as He lives the life of Jesus Christ through us.

- c. **Ultimate Sanctification** - This takes place when Jesus returns to Rapture away the church. This is when our practice will match our position.

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Now let me get back to the thought in our study. In Romans Study of the Doctrine of Sanctification we are focused upon the second stage of Sanctification which is Progressive Sanctification. We are looking at how God has given to us the power to live separated lives and it is not by the Law. So, the Law cannot save us, and the Law cannot sanctify us.

3. The Law cannot condemn us.

Romans 7:6

⁶ But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

But there is something the Law can do and that is convict us. This now brings us to our study tonight.

The Convicting Power of the Law

Part 2

Romans 7:7-13

Notice Romans 7:7

We looked at this verse last week. It is in this verse and in the passage that Paul uses his own personal testimony. Here in this verse he tells his readers it was the Law which God used to open his eyes to the seriousness and to the depth of sin. Paul knew that his Jewish critics would see his previous teaching in chapter 6 and here in chapter 7 as an attack against the Law. They would look at Paul's teaching and understand that he was saying there was no value in the Law and the Law was evil. Let us remember Paul explained that the Law can not justify anyone, it places upon the person a burden that no one can bear, and it stirs up sin within those who are placed under it. So, to the Jew who held the Law in such high esteem, they would have taken Paul's words to understand that the Law was evil. So, here in this verse Paul makes it clear that the Law is not sinful. It was the Law which God used in Paul's life to bring sin into focus.

Paul was a Pharisee before he was saved, and he knew the Law. But the Pharisees focused upon the ceremonial and the civil part of the Law. They had distorted the moral part of the Law to fit their own lives and so they were living in deception. It was when Paul was confronted with the true teaching of the Law that he came under conviction.

Here in this verse Paul even gave details of his conviction. He explains that the Law revealed that sin was a heart problem. This was the opposite of how Paul viewed sin under the teaching of the Pharisees.

Matthew 23:25-28

²⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but **within they are full of extortion and excess.**

²⁶ Thou blind Pharisee, **cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter,** that the outside of them may be clean also.

²⁷ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are **within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.**

²⁸ Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but **within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.**

The Pharisees viewed sin as being an external problem. But sin is a heart problem and when Paul came face to face with the Law he was able to see this truth.

As we continue on Paul is going to continue with his personal testimony.

Notice Romans 7:8

The contrast here is between Paul not knowing sin and how the Law worked in his heart revealing sin. The word "occasion" here means "place of attack". What Paul is saying here is that when the commandment/Law came into his heart sin launched an attack against Paul and stirred up all manner of concupiscence/lust. Paul then tells us that before the Law entered into his heart sin was dead. This means that sin was there, but it was not nearly as active. It was the Law that brought sin to life so that Paul would understand the power and the seriousness of sin.

Notice Romans 7:9

When Paul says that he was alive without the Law once, he is saying that before the Law entered into his heart he was doing fine. He does not mean he was spiritually alive. He was doing fine in his life thinking that he was accepted by God because of the good in his life. Then along came the Law and sin was revived and he died. What does Paul mean when he says he died? He means that his self-righteousness was shattered. He was convicted, and he was broken because he could clearly see how sinful he truly was.

This is where every unsaved person needs to come to. Paul had come to the place where he knew he could not save himself. He was able to see how far into sin he really was. He was able to see that he fell far short of the glory of God. He had come to know that was helpless and hopeless on his own. This clear picture which he now had was the result of looking into the TRUE Law of God, the moral Law. He was able to see that his heart was contaminated, and he had sinned against a holy God. This was exactly where he needed to be for he was in the perfect place now to be saved. He was without strength, helpless and hopeless. The Law had ruined Paul's fantasy life which is exactly what God designed it to do.

Notice Romans 7:10

This is a very interesting verse. The "commandment" which was the Law was ordained to bring blessing in the life of the people of Israel. It was not ordained to save anyone, but it carried with it blessings to those who followed it.

Deuteronomy 28:1-6

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

² And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

³ Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

⁴ Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

⁵ Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

⁶ Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Those who would walk in obedience to God's commandments would enjoy the fullness of life. There would be joy and abundance. But no one could keep the Law.

Notice Romans 7:10 again.

That which was ordained to bring life and blessing only placed Paul under a death sentence because he was unable to keep the Law.

Application:

You and I who know Jesus Christ experience the blessings of the Law but not physical blessings. We experience the abundant life in Christ because Jesus fulfilled the Law.

Romans 8:3-4

³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

The blessings which sinners seek under the Law are freely given to us in Christ. But they are NOT physical blessings like God promised to Israel, but we are showered with spiritual blessings.

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Notice Romans 7:11

Paul had been deceived by sin. This means that sin promised one thing and delivered another. This is exactly what sin is doing in the hearts of the unsaved people today. We can see this in the lives of Adam and Eve.

Genesis 3:4-6

⁴ *And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:*

⁵ *For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*

⁶ *And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*

Sin and Satan promised that life would be much fuller for Eve if she ate the forbidden fruit. But when she and Adam ate the fruit the opposite happened.

Genesis 3:7-8

⁷ *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.*

⁸ *And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.*

Sin had deceived them. Instead of a fuller life sin brought shame and embarrassment. They attempted to cover their sin and to hid from the Lord in the Garden.

This is what sin did to Paul and it is what sin does to every person who gives into the temptation. Sin deceives! It promises fulfillment but only brings shame, embarrassment, regret and emptiness.

So, we live in a world where the majority of the people around us are living in deception thinking that the sin which they are involved in will bring them fullness of life. They are enslaved to sin thinking they will miss out on something.

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ *Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

People are in bondage to sin and Satan and sin have deceived them into believing that if they do not live for the lusts of the flesh they will miss out on life.

Conclusion:

Notice Romans 7:11-12

It was the Law which opened Paul's eyes. So, it is not the Law that is the problem it is sin. The Law is holy, just and good. It serves the purpose of God, but it cannot save us, and it was never meant to save us.

Notice Romans 7:13

Here Paul brings his thoughts to a conclusion. The Law is not the reason for death, but it is sin. The Law condemns the sinner to death, but it is not fault of the Law, but it is because of sin in the heart of the sinner. The Law just awakens the sinner to his or her sin so that they can seek a relationship with Jesus Christ in which eternal life is found.