

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

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PART 12: STRUGGLE AGAINST SIN

In the seventh chapter of Romans, Paul was trying to explain our relationship to the law and sin. He refers to the Law of Death and the law (Torah; also known as the five books of Moses).

Jesus told us that He came to fulfill the Torah and that the rest of its laws would be in effect until the end of the world. **Matthew 5:17-19**

THE TORAH IS STILL VALID

There are two types of people – those who know the Torah and those who don't. Everyone is under the law (Torah) as long as he lives on earth. **Romans 7:1**

The majority of people don't know how to calculate and build circuits but you have been taught not to stick a metal object into an electrical outlet, chew on an electrical cord or to put a toaster in the bath tub when you're standing in the water. There are laws of electricity that govern its use, and even if you don't know better, you are not exempt from its dangers.

Thus a person ignorant of the Torah won't be judged by it; therefore, if a person has not been set free from the Law of Death, his destiny is the Lake of Fire. **Romans 2:12**

When a woman is married to a man, she is bound to that man by God's law of marriage. **Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:2-9**

When the husband dies, the wife is loosed and the law of marriage is no longer applies, and she is free to marry another man. **Romans 7:2-3**

BEING FREE FROM THE LAW OF DEATH

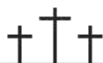
Paul refers to the Law of Death and mentions how Jesus sacrificed his body on the cross to set us free. He uses the term being "dead to the law." Paul also says that Christ is the groom and we are the bride; as the bride of Christ, we should be obedient to our Lord and Savior and keep His commands. **verse 4; Revelation 19:6-9; John 15:1-6**

RESIDING IN THE FLESH

It must have been difficult for the person that divided this letter into chapter and verses. Paul had a tendency to deal with several subjects at the same time, assuming that the readers understood the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus.

When Paul used the term walking in the flesh, he is referring to the time a person was not saved. During this time, sin, as identified by the Law of Death, brought forth death. **verse 5**

A believer in Christ is delivered from the Law of Death and it has no more power over the saved person. Christians should walk in the Spirit and not be bound trying to keep the law (Torah) for our salvation. **verse 6; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16**



IS THE TORAH BAD?

Paul wanted to be sure that a Christian doesn't think the law (Torah) is sinful. **Romans 3:8**

The law (Torah) exists to expose sin in our lives and teaches us to repent. **Romans 7:7; Galatians 3:21-24**

STRUGGLE AGAINST SIN

Without the law (Torah) there is no knowledge of sin. Paul stated that he became aware of sin by the law, this awareness created a strong desire to engage in selfish and lustful behavior that God has declared evil. **verse 8**

Paul felt alive when he lived a lawless life, but when he became aware of God's commandments, sin raised its ugly head and he felt like he died. **verse 9**

And the commandments of God, which were provided to give life to the hearer, became death to Paul. **verse 10**

Sin deceived Paul and slew him spiritually. **verse 11**

The law (Torah) is holy and its commandments are just and good. **verse 12**

Does the law (Torah) good create death in me? Absolutely not! It exists to expose sin and its wickedness in our lives. **verse 13**

The law (Torah) is spiritual but Paul felt that he was in the flesh and controlled by sin. **verse 14**

The apostle Peter loved the apostle Paul and admitted that some of Paul's writing was hard to understand. **2 Peter 3:15-16**

Paul confessed he was tempted and attributed this ungodly desire to sin. But his description indicates there was some kind of spiritual entity behind this struggle. Paul stated that it was not his spirit that sinned, but the sin that was in his body and soul. He describes the typical Christian struggling against sin and evil spirits. **Romans 7:15-20**

Paul came to the conclusion that only Jesus Christ can set him free from this struggle. **verses 21-25**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?