

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 09 Sept. 2026.....Romans 01True Power
- 2) 13 Sept.....Romans 02Coming Judgment
- 3) 20 Sept.....Romans 03-04.....Saving Faith
- 4) 27 Sept.....Romans 05Restored Relationship
- 5) 04 Oct.....Romans 06Freedom
- 6) 11 Oct.....Romans 07Struggle**
- 7) 18 Oct.....Romans 08Indwelt
- 8) 25 Oct.....Romans 09-10.....Believe
- 9) 01 Nov.....Romans 11.....Kindness
- 10) 08 Nov.....Romans 12.....Sacrifice
- 11) 15 Nov.....Romans 13.....Represent
- 12) 22 Nov.....Romans 14.....Unity
- 13) 29 Nov.....Romans 15-16.....Purpose

INTRODUCTION

- Pat Robertson said a husband can divorce his wife if she has Alzheimer's and marry another without it being adulterous since she is mentally dead. In contrast, **Romans 7** says if a man divorces his wife and marries another while his first wife is still alive (i.e., breathing), he becomes an adulterer. Now, who is right?
- Bible commentary by Albert Barnes (1798-1870) says this about Romans Chapter 7: "Few chapters in the Bible have been the subject of more decidedly different interpretations than this"
- The essence of Chapter 7 is to show that since we are dead to the Law (our first spouse) because of what Christ did on the cross (He freed us from the Law), we can now be legally married to Christ (our new spouse) without being called adulterous
- This chapter also conveys we have 1 purpose in life – to bear fruit, BUT the only thing stopping us from being fruitful for God lays between our ears – Who's going to win the battle for the mind?

Passage	Comments
Romans 7:1-3	<p>The Law Binds and Releases – Conditionally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul presents a simple but contentious analogy regarding divorce and remarriage – According to God's Law we become adulterers if we marry someone while our previous spouse is still alive. There are no exceptions! Even if our previous spouse has Alzheimer's (according to Pat Robertson, Sept. 16, 2011), or if they are unfaithful, or they abandoned the marriage, or even if they are unsaved – there are no exceptions!..... Mat 5:32; 19:9; Mrk 10:11; Lk 16:18 • God's solution is to reconcile or remain single. Now do we obey or stray?..... 1Cor 7:10-11 • Remember, we are legally and scripturally bound as long as our spouse is alive.....Rom 7:2; 1Cor 7:39 • God's ideal plan for a marriage between one man and one woman for life was to emulate our special relationship with Him. Anything that deviates from or pollutes God's pristine plan is considered adulterous. • Fortunately, God does not throw anybody away for failing in this area. If He worked with adulterous King David & the woman at the well who had 5 husbands and a live-in boyfriend, He can work with us. • BUT the marriages God WILL NOT work with are those which He does not "join together" (e.g., same sex unions and incestual unions [Herod & Herodias] to name a few]. See Lev 18 for other forbidden marriages
7:4-6	<p>We Died to the Law So We Can be Fruitful</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. God's plan for us is to be married to Christ so we can bear good fruit for God & reap rewards. • v5. How does the Law stir up our passions to sin and to bear deadly fruit? And what is "fruit unto death"?

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basically, when we are told not to speed, cuss, lust, or touch wet paint, what do we want to do? • Deadly fruit would be the hurts and turmoil we cause from our words and deeds. • v6. The key to being free from the Law is to be a slave to God (willful obedience to His word). • And if we are led by the Spirit (through obedience), we are not under the Law Galatians 5:18
Fruit for God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should our fruit look like? Is it changed lives and behavior? Or increased possessions? Souls Won? • When our kids, family, friends, co-workers or strangers make decisions to live for God because of things we said or examples we set – that is fruit to our account!
7:7-13	<p>The Law is Holy, Righteous, and Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv7-8. The problem is not with the Law, which makes us fully aware of our shortcomings. The problem is with us and our cravings to do our own thing – to sin! • vv9-11. Paul says he was once alive before the Law became known to him? Was this when he was a child before the 'age of accountability'? Paul doesn't say "we" but "I", so the context seems to apply to his pre-conversion days when he was blissfully ignorant of the true meaning of the Law, though he had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge (Rom 10:2). - In other words, Paul didn't know better back then. • vv12-13. It was at his conversion when he realized the Law was indeed holy and he was in need of a Savior.
7:14-20	<p>The Law is Spiritual, and it was Meant for Our Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv15-17. Even Paul wrestled with his fleshly desires – "nothing good dwells within me" • vv17,20. Sin is to blame (but it's our willingness to sin) – Recall from last week (Rom 6 14 and Gen 4:7) we are responsible to master sin – We have no excuse!
7:21-25	<p>The Real Battle is in the Mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So how can feeble-minded creatures like us who have evil ever present within us and who would rather take the path of least resistance, ever win this sin battle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus to the rescue – and the Holy Spirit who is the life-changing agent – but that's next week's lesson

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- "When Christ calls a man—He bids him come and die." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and martyr.



Reality weddings.