

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17..... Good News To Tell
- 2) 11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26..... Good News to Hear
- 3) 18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25..... Good News to Believe
- 4) 25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21..... It's All About Grace
- 5) 02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23..... It's All About New Life
- 6) 09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25.....It's All About Victory**
- 7) 16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39.....It's All About Certainty
- 8) 23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36..... It's All About God's Plan
- 9) 30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21..... Does Your Life Please God
- 10) 06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14..... Can You Be Counted On
- 11) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12..... Do You Respect Others
- 12) 20 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23..... Do You Strive for Peace with Others
- 13) 27 Nov.....Romans 15:1—16:27..... Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

INTRODUCTION

- Bible commentary by Albert Barnes (1798-1870) says this about 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 perfect 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! • 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
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" <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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ 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 more possessions? Or is it changed behavior? Changed lives? 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's fruit to our account!

Passage	Comments
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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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

NEXT WEEK: Romans 8. Chapter 8 hits on 12 doctrines – Election, predestination, God's foreknowledge, God's calling, justification, condemnation, salvation, eternal security, spiritual adoption, joint heirs with Christ, perseverance, and prayer – all within 39 verses

AFTER EDEN

by Dan Lietha



Reality weddings.