

## The Normal Christian Life

### The Meaning and Value of Romans Seven

#### The Flesh and Man's Breakdown

- **Rom. 7:5** - For when we were **in the flesh**, the **passions for sins**, which *acted* through the law, **operated in our members** to **bear fruit to death**.
  - This goes beyond the question of sin, for it relates also the matter of **pleasing God**.
    - **Rom 8:8** – And those who are in the **flesh cannot please God**.
- Many are truly **saved** and yet **bound by sin**.
  - When Christ died He **included** us sinners in His death.
  - Man's eyes are opened and he **knows** he has been crucified with Christ.
  - Man **reckons** that he has died and risen with the Lord.
  - Man **presents himself** to God as alive from the dead.
  - But then man **begins to reason** that he must do something for Christ since Christ has done so much for him.
  - Man seeks to **discover the will of God**, sets out to **obey Him**, and discovers that **he does not always like the will of God**.
  - Man brings all his **will-power** to bear on the situation, but finds **greater defeat**.
- **Rom. 7:18** – For I know that in me, that is, **in my flesh**, **nothing good dwells**; for **to will is present with men**, but **to work out the good is not**.

#### What the Law Teaches

- **Romans 7** is given to us to explain and make real **Romans 6:14**.
  - **Rom. 6:14** – For sin will not lord it over you, for you are not under the **law** but under **grace**.
- Grace means that **God does something for me**; law means that **I do something for God**.
  - God has **holy and righteous demands** which He places upon me: that is **law**.
  - Deliverance from law means that He no longer requires **fulfillment** from me, but Himself provides it (**grace**).
- The trouble in **Romans 7** is that man in the **flesh tries to do something for God**.
- The trouble is not that the Law's demands are unjust, but that **man is unable to meet it**.
- The Law makes our **weakness manifest**.

- When a holy law is applied to a sinful man, then his sinfulness comes out in full display.
- God knows that we are full of sin. The trouble is that *I* do not know it.
- The Law was not given in the **expectation** that we would **keep it**.
  - It has been our **schoolmaster** to **bring us to Christ**, that He Himself may fulfill it in us.

### **Christ the End of the Law**

- In **Romans 7** we are shown the **way of deliverance** from the Law in the picture of two husbands and a wife.
  - The first husband is the Law.
  - The second husband is Christ.
  - We are the woman.
- The **Law requires much** but **offers no help** in the carrying out of its requirements.
- The **Lord Jesus requires just as much, even more**, but what He requires from us **He Himself carries out in us**.
- Exactly the **same principle** operates in our **deliverance** from the **Law** as in our deliverance from **sin**.
  - While the **woman lives** she is **bound** to her husband, but with her **death** the marriage bond is dissolved and she is “discharged from the law of her husband.”
- We were **in** the Lord Jesus when He **died**, and that **inclusive** death of His has forever **freed** us from the Law.
- On the third day He rose again; and since we are still in Him **we are risen too**.
- God’s purpose in **uniting** us to Christ was not merely negative; it was gloriously positive.
  - The **issue** of this union is that the woman brings forth **fruit unto God**.
  - The **risen life** of the Lord in her **empowers** her for all the demands God’s holiness makes upon her.
  - The Law of God is **not annulled**; it is **perfectly fulfilled**, for the risen Lord now **lives out His life in her**, and His life is always well-pleasing to the Father.
  - When we belong to Him, all that is His becomes ours, and with His infinite resources at our disposal we are well able to meet all His demands.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 9)