

# God's Good News About Righteousness

## An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

by James T. Bartsch, WordExplain.com

### The Futility of Sanctification by Means of the Law (Romans 7:1-25), Part 1

#### Study 13, The Believer Has been Freed from the Law, But the Law is Still Good.

Romans 7:1-13

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). (Study 1)
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20 (Studies 2-5)
- C. JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith 3:21 - 5:21 (Studies 6-10)
- D. **SANCTIFICATION: The Out-working of Righteousness in the Believer's Experience 6 - 8.**
  - 1. The Necessity of Sanctification in Relation to Sin. 6:1-23. (Studies 11, 12)
  - 2. **The Futility of the Believer's Sanctification by Means of the Law. 7:1-25. Part 1, The Believer Has been Freed from the Law, But the Law is Still Good. (Romans 7:1-13), Study 13.**
    - a. **The Believer in Christ Has Been Freed from the Law. 7:1-6.**
      - 1) How long does the Law (given to Moses – Exodus 20 ff.) have jurisdiction over a person? (7:1).
      - 2) What universally recognized social contract is used as an illustration of this truth of limited jurisdiction? (7:2-3).

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        - a) How long is a woman bound by law to her husband? (7:2).
        - b) If he dies, what is she free to do? (7:2).
        - c) If her husband is still living and she is joined to another man, what will she be called? (7:3).
        - d) If her husband has died, from what has she been freed? <sup>1</sup> (7:3).

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<sup>1</sup> 7:3, Question 2) d): In this case the Law of Marriage no longer has jurisdiction over her. Her husband's death has ended the jurisdiction of the Law of Marriage over her.

- e) If her husband has died and she marries another man, what will she not be? (7:3).
- 3) The application of the illustrated principle of limited jurisdiction. (7:4-6).
- a) The fact of the believer's co-death: <sup>2</sup> In what way have believers died to the Law? (7:4a) – through what?
  - b) The purpose of a believer's co-death. (7:4).
    - i Since we have died to the Law, what is God's first purpose for us? To be joined to whom? (7:4b).
    - ii What is God's second purpose for us? To bear (give birth) to what?
  - c) The illustration of a believer's old "marriage". (7:5).
    - i Before we came to Christ, we were living "in the flesh." In our condition at that time, what did God's Holy Law aggravate and arouse in us? (7:5a).
    - ii What was the result of that old "marriage"? Our sinful passions worked in the members of our body to bear fruit that ended in what? (7:5b).
  - d) The present results of our co-death. (7:6).
    - i Because we have died, from what are we released? (7:6a).
    - ii We are now able to serve, empowered by what? (7:6b).
    - iii What was the old, ineffective way of serving? (7:6c).

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<sup>2</sup> 7:4, Question 3) a) - co-death: In God's world of justice all have sinned (Romans 3:23) and are worthy of eternal death (Rom. 6:23). Jesus died as our substitute for our sins in our place (Rom. 5:8, 10; 1 Corinthians 15:3). In God's sense of justice, he counts us who rely on Jesus as having died with Christ on the cross (Rom. 7:4a; Galatians 2:20a). Since we have died with Him, we are free from the Law of Moses. It no longer has jurisdiction over us!

**b. The Law is Still Good. (7:7-13).**

- 1) The Law is Holy and does not cause sinfulness – sin does! (7:7-12).
  - a) What question does Paul ask about the Law? (7:7a).
  - b) How does he answer the question? (7:7b).
  - c) What would he never have come to know apart from the Law? (7:7c).
  - d) In regard to what specific sin did the Law educate him? (7:7d).
  - e) How did sin take advantage of Paul through the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment? (7:8a, see Exodus 20:17).
    - i As an example, if you see a sign that says, “Keep off the grass,” what do you want to do?
    - ii If you see a sign that says, “Wet paint, do not touch,” what do you want to do?
    - iii If you see a sign on the Interstate that says, “Work Zone, Speed Limit 55,” what do you want to do?
  - f) If there is no Law against anything is sin alive or dead? (7:8b, 9a).
  - g) When the Law came, what happened to sin? (7:9b).
  - h) What happened to me? (7:9c).
  - i) What is the purpose of God’s Law? If you keep it, it results in what? (7:10a).
  - j) But because my sinful body reacts negatively to Law, what was the end-result of the Law for me? (7:10b).
  - k) How does sin take an opportunity through the Law? (7:11).
    - i First of all it does what?
    - ii Then it does what?

- l) Conclusion about the Law. (7:12).
  - i What can we conclude about the Law? (7:12a).
  - ii What can we conclude about the Commandment? (7:12b).
    - (a) \_\_\_\_\_;
    - (b) \_\_\_\_\_;
    - (c) \_\_\_\_\_;
- 2) The Law does not cause Death – Sin does! (7:13).
  - a) What question does Paul ask? (7:13a).
  - b) How does he answer it? (7:13b).
  - c) What was it that caused him to die through that which is good (the Law)? (7:13c).
  - d) What is the effect of the Law? (7:13d). It reveals that \_\_\_\_\_ is utterly \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Some follow-up questions.
  - a. From what you have learned, are the Ten Commandments (and the rest of God's Law) good or bad?
  - b. How does the sin that is within each one of us take advantage of God's laws?
  - c. From your experience, what laws of man or God have you felt like breaking?
  - d. Is your desire to break laws the fault of the laws or the fault of the sin that is within you?
  - e. From our country's founding in 1776, do we now have more laws or less laws?
  - f. Have these laws succeeded in making our citizens better people?

- g. Can you begin to see that just making Laws will never have the capacity to change the sinful attitudes and reactions of sinful people? This truth will be reinforced in Study 14.
- h. If our trying to keep God's laws is utterly ineffective in causing us to become more holy and righteous, what can give us the POWER to do good? We will examine this question in Study 15!

**Study 13, The Futility of Sanctification by Means of the Law, Part 1: The Believer Has been Freed from the Law, But the Law is Still Good.**

Romans 7:1-13

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January, 2008

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