

July 16, 2017

Set Free for Life and Peace

*Some would say the opposite of a sinful life is a sinless one. (Being pure.) But the opposite of sin is the Spirit of God. We've created a new law of spirituality—"... if I don't do this, I'm in the right"—but we're called to live and act in harmony with the Spirit's voice" (D. Fraley, 2017).*

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*In ch 7, Paul has argued that Sin as an occupying power in our humanity (flesh) is more decisive than our willingness to obey. So dire is the situation that Paul can characterize the human self as Sin's slave (vs 14), as a prisoner of war needing rescue from captivity (Romans 7:24).*

*In ch 8, the liberation from Sin "through Jesus Christ our Lord is first, by declaring it to be God's work through Christ, then, by identifying the role of the Spirit as God's power indwelling the self, enabling it to walk (live) not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit (8:4).*

*Christ offered up His perfect life "for sin" (Romans 8:3). By becoming "obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Philippians 2:8), He destroyed sin in the flesh (8:4). He deposed Sin from its usurped autocratic power. By His life of perfect obedience, and His victorious death and resurrection, He broke the tyranny Sin exercised over enslaved humanity. He destroyed Sin's claim and power for all who are in Him, making humanity's earthly condition the scene of Sin's defeat (Greathouse, Lyons, 2008).*

**Next week:** Series on the Book of Romans. Romans 8:12-25

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Flesh for the Apostle Paul is not just physical desire, but to boil it down, it is my selfish will (sinful nature). What I want and what I want right now! The term 'flesh' immediately includes my physical desires.

What things do you 'have to have'? Are they from the Savior?

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Or are they the trappings of paying homage to self?

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Two laws are at work in our lives. Tap into one and that is where we are heading. Law will catch up to us. "What I want, when I want it"... making small choices for self will remove our ultimate choice. That is the law of addiction.

But tap into the other—the Spirit of the living God—and I am "set free". Free from the law of sin, death, and addiction to self. United to Christ, receiving His Spirit (His wholeness), we are truly set free!

Unless we recognize our slavery to sin and our inability to break free from it, we will not seek the only solution, Jesus.

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