

**Free from Sin to Grow in Grace**  
**Session 8: The Purpose of the Law**

If we take an elevated view of Romans chapter 5,6,7, and 8, we follow along with Paul as he is laying down the following truths:

- 1. WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW LIFE THROUGH OUR FAITH JESUS CHRIST.**
- 2. IN THIS NEW LIFE OF FAITH IN JESUS, GOD TRANSFERS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO US.**
- 3. THE GIFT OF GRACE IS GREATER THAN SIN**
- 4. THE DOMINION OF SIN IS OVER**
- 5. GRACE FREES US TO SERVE WHO & WHAT WE WILL**

**Romans 5:1-2; Romans 6:6; Romans 6:10-14; Romans 6:16**

In order to understand what the Apostle Paul states in chapter 7 and understand the controversy surrounding it, let's look at the following from John Stott's book "***The Message of Romans***:"

1. First, if reading without any preconceived idea, we can see that Paul is writing in more of historical sense than in a personal one. While looking at God's purpose, now as a believer and no longer an elect Jewish man, he is working out how the Law was used by God and also what place does the Law have in the new era that Christ initiated.
2. Before coming to Chapter 7, Paul describes the Law in such a way that it is incompatible with the Gospel of Grace. He says the Law reveals sin; condemns the sinner; brings wrath; increased sin. When he says, "***the law reveals sin, not salvation; it brings wrath, not grace,***" imagine being a Jewish person hearing that. It would be shock & awe & anger!
3. There are three possible attitudes to the Law we can see:

**First is Legalism** – Legalists are "under the Law" and in bondage to it. They imagine that their relationship to God depends on their obedience to the law, and they are seeking to be both justified and sanctified by it. But they are crushed by the law's inability to save them.

**Second is Libertines/or Antinomians** – These go to the opposite extreme. Blaming the law for their problems, they reject it altogether, and claim to be rid of all obligation to its demands. They have turned liberty into license.

**Third is Law-Fulfilling Free People** - They rejoice both in their freedom from the law for justification and sanctification, and in their freedom to fulfil it. They delight in the law as the revelation of God's will, but recognize that the power to fulfil it is not in the law but in the Spirit.

4. We see this breakdown in his arguments in Chapter 7:  
**In verses 1-6** Paul writes how we been **Released from the Law** in order to serve God in the Spirit. Christ has released from the Law and now we belong to Christ instead. This message is important for Legalists to understand.

**In verses 7-13** Paul gives a **Defense of the Law** stating that is good and holy. He says that the Law didn't make us sin, instead, it is our fallen nature that makes us sin. This is a message to those who are "anti-law."

**Finally, in verses 14-25** Paul describes the **Weakness of the Law** because it can neither justify nor sanctify sinners. Paul describes a man here with an inner conflict. This man loves God, wants to obey the Law yet cannot keep the Law. Even if you love God and the Commandments He gave, you will find within a conflict – doing what you want to do! The Law could never rescue us from the sin nature fighting within us. So, God did what the Law couldn't, He gave us His Spirit. This is the message to those who find their freedom in fulfilling the Law.

Then the answer to it all:

**25 I give all my thanks to God, for his mighty power has finally provided a way out through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! So if left to myself, the flesh is aligned with the law of sin, but now my renewed mind is fixed on and submitted to God's righteous principles.**