

Freedom from the Enemy Within (Romans 7)

Pastor Deric

(1) Or do you not know, brothers--for I am speaking to those who know the law--that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? (2) For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. (3) Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

(4) Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. (5) For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. (6) But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

(7) What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." (8) But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead.

(9) I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. (10) The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. (11) For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. (12) So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

(13) Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

(14) For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. (15) For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. (16) Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. (17) So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. (18) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. (19) For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. (20) Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

(21) So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. (22) For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, (23) but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. (24) Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (25) Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Practical Application

1. Review: Living under grace is liberating. You have been freed to love God, live for God, and enjoy God and His good gifts.
2. The best covenant to live in is the New Covenant. Relationship with God is more important than the regulations of God.
3. We all have an enemy within (sin). Jesus Christ can free us from this enemy within.
4. You can live a fruitful life for God.
5. Life apart from God leads to slavery. Sinful passions will control and enslave you if you let them.

6. The Holy Spirit of God can enable and empower you to live the best life possible.
7. God's holy, righteous, and good law shows us our deep problem and points us to an even deeper solution.
8. Desiring the wrong things leads to death, but desiring God leads to life.
9. Sin brings death. Jesus Christ brings life.
10. We have all done things we did not want to do. We have all felt bad, ashamed, and guilty.
11. Only God can liberate us from the wicked enemy that lies deep within us.
12. The Spirit of God is greater than the sinful nature.
13. Are you winning the war within? If not, you can start today.
14. We all need the deliverance, victory, freedom, and liberation that only comes through the Son of God.

Announcements

-Praise and Worship "New Beginnings" gathering this Wednesday, January 24 from 6:30-7:30pm

-New Members class will be on February 4 (12-1pm). You can sign up today. Lunch will be provided. See Pastor Deric or express your interest to attend by sending an email to info@hopemountain.church

-Church Work Day: Saturday, February 10, at 8am

-Feb 11 - Men's Meeting / Dinner / Super Bowl Sunday Party – See Brad Vick

-Feb 17 – Saturday – Winter Jam Christian Concert – Youth – See David Barrero

-Please be praying this week for the Barrero family this week.