

Oct 08, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

As believers in Jesus we celebrate our life as new creations. Yet we must never lose sight of what that cost Christ. His death brings us life

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Loving Father, thank You that, because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, I am a new creation. Forgive me for the times I return to the old things that need to pass away

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new
(2 Cor 5:17 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 08, 2020)

Series: God's Law Is Love

**UNIT 2: Faith Triumphs,
Law Fails**

NEXT WEEK

**Works and Faith
(Gal 2:11-21)**

Old and New Romans 7:1-12

Lesson Background and Introduction

Paul addresses a deep dive into the purpose and applicability of the Old Testament law to Christians. Tension between Christians of Jewish and Gentile backgrounds is a context of the book of Romans, something that is no longer an issue in the church today. Even so, the question of the place of the Law of Moses as regulations for human behavior is still debated. Therefore, while understanding Paul's ongoing argument in Romans can be challenging, diligent study of this book is essential for the practice of biblical Christianity. The book of Romans is the fullest expression of Paul's teaching, what he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25). Paul refers to his teaching this way as he draws frequently on his Jewish heritage. By one count, Romans features more than 50 direct quotes from the Old Testament. In Romans 5, 6, and 7, Paul identifies three great tyrants of humankind: sin, death, and the law. Each of these has had a role in oppressing men and women and robbing them of the possibility of a reconciled relationship with the Lord. Each of these three has had "mastery" and "authority" (Romans 6:9; 7:1; compare 6:14), the language of tyranny. Death has reigned in terror since the sin of Adam (5:14). Sin has reigned in the lives of men and women (6:12), leading to the consequences of judgment. Law (whether Mosaic or secular) exists as the authority to define and punish wrong behavior (6:15-23). In Romans 7, Paul returned to a discussion of the rightful place of the law in God's plan.

1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 11:44-45, says "Be holy, because I am holy." We may disagree on which aspects of the Law of Moses still apply in the New Testament era, but this is one area where there is no doubt. We press further when we wonder how to be holy as God is holy. That is a profoundly important question, and we must commit to growing in holiness throughout our lives. To be holy requires a distinction from that which is unholy, and God is the one who makes that distinction known in his laws. Same thing with being loving versus being unloving (see Galatians 5:14, quoting Leviticus 19:18). If there is no God, no lawgiver, then there can be no absolute laws with regard to being holy, loving, etc. But God does exist, and He has given laws for the good of humankind. The way to counteract deadly, worldly influence is to study the ways God intends as presented throughout our Bibles.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Bondage of the Law (Rom 7:1-6)

Released by death (1-3)

- Released by death because it agrees with the Law (1 Cor 7:39)
- Released by death because our old self was crucified (Rom 6:6-7)
- Released by death because our lives are now hidden with Christ (Col 3:3)
- Released by death because through Jesus we have died to sins (1 Peter 2:24)

Released by the Spirit (4-6)

- By the Spirit because He gives life (2 Cor 3:6)
- By the Spirit because we are made alive by Him (1 Peter 3:18)
- By the Spirit through the words of the Spirit who gives life (John 6:63)
- By the Spirit because He sets us free from sin and death (Rom 8:2)

Bondage of Sin (Rom 7:7-12)

Sin defined (7-8)

- Defined through warnings (Ps 19:11)
- Defined to guide toward obedience (Ps 119:101)
- Defined to make us conscious of sin (Rom 3:20)
- Defined so that unbelievers can be judged (Rom 2:12)
- Defined to determine if disobedience has been committed (Rom 4:15)

Sin's result (9-10)

- Result of death because it was commanded (Rom 6:23)
- Result of death because the soul that sins will die (Ezek 18:4)
- Result of death because Adam's sin was passed on to us (Rom 5:12)
- Result of death when sin is committed (James 1:15)
- Result of death is the judgment of unbelievers (Rev 21:8)

Sin's deception (11-12)

- Deception from the old self (Eph 4:22)
- Deception from the lure of sin (Heb 3:13)
- Deception caused by disobedience (James 1:22)
- Deception caused by our evil desires (James 1:14)
- Deception from our sinful nature (Rom 8:6)

(See Commentary on Romans 7:11 at URL: https://www.preceptaustin.org/romans_710-131)