

# Romans: The Crown Jewel of Salvation

## 27- So What Good Is The Law, Anyway?

Romans 7:7-13

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / March 16, 2014

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Back in Romans 6, Paul anticipates questions his readers would have that would put a wrong “twist” on the Gospel and the fact that we’re no longer under the law but “under grace.”

Twist #1: So we can continue in sin so grace can abound, right? (Rom. 6:1-14)

Twist #2: So are we free to sin since we’re not under the law anymore? (Rom. 6:15-7:6)

Today, we look at a final “twist” Paul addresses...

### Twist #3: What good is the law? Is it useless? Is it sin?

Absolutely not! In fact, the law was God’s good gift to us, serving us in 4 good ways:

#### I. The Law Shows Us Our Sin (Rom. 7:7b).

Rom. 7:7b                      On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “*You shall not covet.*”

Paul uses the one commandment that addresses only the heart (covetousness), showing us our need for the law. We’d be blind to our sin without it! In setting this standard, we’re able to identify sin we’d otherwise not be aware of!

- A. The Law shows us God’s standard, enabling us to *identify* sin.
- B. The Law shows us God’s standard, enabling us to *compare* ourselves to it.
- C. The Law shows us we fail to meet God’s standard of holiness.

James 2:10                      <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, **he is guilty of all.**

#### II. The Law Stirs Our Sin (Rom. 7:8).

Rom. 7:8                      But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead.

Our sin takes God's good command and rises up against it, giving us the desire to do what God says not to do.

Rom. 4:15                   ...because the law brings about wrath; **for where there is no law *there is no transgression.***

1 Cor. 15:56               The sting of death *is* sin, **and the strength of sin *is* the law.**

God's law doesn't bring about sin. It's in our nature. It lies dormant until God's Law is given, and then our sinful desires are known for what they really are. The Law only stirs what was already within us to begin with!

### III.    **The Law Slays Us as Sinners (Rom. 7:9-11).**

A. Paul saw himself as alive and well...

Phil. 3:4b-6               <sup>4</sup> **...If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:** <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> concerning zeal, persecuting the church; **concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

...until the Law showed him the truth about himself.

Rom. 7:9                   <sup>9</sup> I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.

B. Paul once thought his "to-do" list was supposed to bring life! However, his inability to live up to God's perfect standard convicted him.

Rom. 7:10                  <sup>10</sup> And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. <sup>11</sup> For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.

C. Paul was deceived by the law, thinking it would make him acceptable to God...but it did the exact opposite. Instead of bringing about righteousness, it only showed his guilty standing before 100% holy God.

Rom. 7:11                  <sup>11</sup> For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.

**IV. The Law Shows Us the Sinfulness of our Sin (Rom. 7:12,13).**

Rom. 7:12,13

<sup>12</sup>Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. <sup>13</sup>Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.**

*The law is a key revealer of our  
daily need of God's grace.*