

## In step with Jesus 172

October 4, 2025

**Key Text:** “But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.” Romans 7:6.

**Introduction:** This week we are starting a new chapter in the book of Romans. Paul continues his conversation regarding the Law, Sin and Gods goodness to all as he seeks to further enlighten the church at Rome. Some authors suggest that Paul is referring to his own struggles with sin, as he describes the struggles that he faced whether before or after his conversion. We shall see more of that as we look further into Chapter 7 next week. Regardless of the timing, we all face the same issues, but it is vital for us to remember that God, who has promised to redeem us, will give us the victory over sin if we ask him.

### **Romans 7:1-13**

1 Do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives? <sup>2</sup>For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to *her* husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of *her* husband. <sup>3</sup>So then if, while *her* husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God. <sup>5</sup>For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death. <sup>6</sup>But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

<sup>7</sup>What shall we say then? *Is* the law sin? Certainly not! 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.” <sup>8</sup>But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead. <sup>9</sup>I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. <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. <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.

## **Reflections**

Sin is broadly defined as a transgression of religious or moral law, a violation of a deity's commands, the revealed will of God, or a failure to live up to divine standards. Under that definition, there is no sin where there is no law. Without the law there is no sin. Without rules, there is no crime. However as Paul points out, when we know the Law, we will therefore know sin, and be responsible for our actions in regard to the law. In verse 9. Paul states that he was once alive without the law, but when the commandment came, (and he became aware of the laws) sin revived, and he died. He was alive without the law once, but when he understood it, he saw himself as a sinner, condemned under the divine law.

Ignorance of the law is no excuse. Without knowledge of laws we don't know if we have broken them, but when we do know the rules, then it is our responsibility to obey to the best of our ability. Some may say that "the law" was done away with at the cross. Yes and no. The sacrificial laws instituted at Sinai, which pointed ahead to the ultimate sacrifice, were over written by the death of Jesus Christ at Calvary. His death repealed that portion of the law. And while many of the ceremonial laws were also revoked, the 10 commandments written by the hand of God are to stand till the end of time. In verse 7 Paul refers to the tenth commandment regarding covetousness and affirms it along with the other nine. He had no doubt about the enduring goodness of God and His instructions regarding our relationship with Him and to our fellow beings.

While we are alive we are under the Law, those of man, or obedience to the law of God. That obedience alone cannot save us. Our only hope of salvation is through an enduring faith in and love for our Saviour, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the death on the cross for our sakes. May we keep our hands in his till he comes to take us home with Him.