

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

Romans 7:7-12

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Sunday, December 4, 2022

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Just When You Thought It Was Over”

The Gospel of Grace. The Foundation of New Testament Theology
According to the Gift of Grace Through Faith in Jesus Christ Alone.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Grace, Faith, Works, Paul, Law, The Spiritual vs. The Carnal, Wrath, Glory

Romans 7:7-12

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.” 8 But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. 9 I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. 10 And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. 11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. 12 Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

We had just taken off from Rome Flying in-bound to Athens Greece.

<https://www.airportia.com/flights/a3651/rome/athens/>

The weather was “clear skies with occasional thunderstorms along our route.

Just after take-off there was no doubt – it was a bit bumpy {aka: Light Turbulence} It was definitely summer over the Mediterranean. For a good hour it was BUMPY then finally smooth air came and things were calm.

At Just 100 miles out from Athens the pilot announced, “**We will soon begin our descent into Athens**” and “just when you thought it was over” we ran into what is called Moderate Chop for those of you not familiar – it’s real close to being Moderate Turbulence and from then on it wasn’t pretty.

I, and Pastors Jon Courson and John Miller together were hosting a Footsteps of the Apostle Paul Tour and on our tour was not 1 – but 2 seasoned-career airline captains. One flew for Delta Airlines and the other for UPS.

Delta said to UPS “Not good. Not good - This is not good.” “UPS answered Delta saying “He needs to reduce our airspeed before he breaks this thing up!”

That’s when I knew we were about to die. Here’s “the because” – I’ve had my pilots license since 1982. I studied this stuff. I knew just enough to know – “these 2 guys are correct - this aint good at all.

I’ve read about this stuff.

I’ve read about this stuff.

I’ve read about this stuff.

I’ve read about this stuff.

Reading About Something vs. **Living** Thru Something Is Not The Same Thing

Just When You Thought It Was Over

1.) Truth shakes you at the core

vs. 7

The Truth Shakes You At The Core

Just When You Thought It Was Over

1a.) Truth is factual

vs.7a

Verse 7a

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary,

“What shall we say then?”

This “what shall we say then” is an expression of complete and total surrender to what is True.

“The Surrendering to The Facts”

We must be careful to “Not Talk Christianese” in front of the world when speaking about Biblical Truth.

They have no idea what we mean when we say things like; “Praise the Lord or God is Sovereign or Bless you or Jesus Saves”

“What shall we say then?” – this is what we say;
the unmitigated truth of God from His Word.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8,14

However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Verse 7a

Is the Law sin? – this is Paul answering anyone who would be tempted to think that – *“If a believer in Christ is no longer under the judgement of the Law – then lets party!”*

Verse 7a

Certainly not. On the contrary!

Certainly not

grk: ginomai

Never think it or allow to come into being, never to happen,

The Truth Shakes You At The Core

Just When You Thought It Was Over

1b.) Truth is surgical

vs. 7b

Verse 7b

I would not have known sin except through the law.

Known

grk: ginosko

to come to the place of being able to recognize, perceive, become aware of, to understand what was previously not understood. (a very powerful reality that causes sin to become obviously wrong)

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Here's a Goofy Illustration:

Imagine you sense or feel a little tickle or sensation on the back of your neck and as you reach to discover why – you realize a huge spider is on you - your response is an overwhelmingly, exaggerated reaction!

Acts 2:37-38

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” :38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 7b

I would not have known sin except through the law.

Except

grk: ei me

exclusively or from one source, uniquely limited to this one thing.

Guess What – When we read the Bible or Hear the Bible – or When a sermon is Preached that is “Usable to God” there will always be a surgical strike by The Holy Spirit.

John 16:7-13

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

Note To Self:

“I mentioned over the last couple of years that, watching the world and how it’s crashing headlong morally and ethically toward apostasy - that I made the comment that, “I would not be surprised if soon the political leaders in the world today would seek to criminalize the Bible (the work of the Holy Spirit) in the area of topics that generate the conviction of sin. That at some point in time godless humanity would seek to silence God and if possible, arrest Him, jail Him and throw away the key.”

“Will the Bible soon become banned in Europe under European “hate speech” due to its anti-gay teachings?”

<https://europeanconservative.com/articles/commentary/the-bible-as-hate-speech/>

<https://thefederalist.com/2022/01/25/finnish-government-puts-christianity-on-trial-calls-the-bible-hate-speech/>

John 19:15-16

But they cried out, *“Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!”* Pilate said to them, *“Shall I crucify your King?”* The chief priests answered, *“We have no king but Caesar!”* 16 Then Pilate delivered Jesus to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

Luke 23:20-25b

Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. 21 But they shouted, saying, *“Crucify Him, crucify Him!”* 22 Then Pilate said to them the third time, *“Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go.”* 23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. 25b Pilate delivered (= to betray or to go against what you know to be right) Jesus to their will.

Church, Know This;

Satan Has a Wicked Memory & Perverted Humor

And so as you sit here this morning – it is not morning in hell – it’s pitch black dark. But I bet you now, Satan is taunting & reminding people there,

“What was it that you said about Jesus Christ, to Jesus’ Face? O’ yes, I remember – because I put those words in your head and you agreed with me and so they just flew out of your mouth because my words found a place in your heart – I just used the fact that you hated Jesus Christ by simply ignoring Him... “

“Look at what you’ve done - to you !!!”

- sincerely Satan

*“Away with Him, away with Him!” = yank Him out of here!
Crucify Him!” = fence Him then shame Him “We have no king = no authority
but Caesar!” = Politics is our Leader. “Crucify Him,
crucify Him!” = = fence Him then shame Him = get Him out of here!*

“Why did you do this - to you!!!”

- sincerely Satan

The Truth Shakes You At The Core

Just When You Thought It Was Over

1c.) Truth is revealing

vs. 7c

Verse 7c

For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”

This is a Remarkable Moment for us.

The apostle Paul allows us to take a look at the inside of who he was before meeting Jesus Christ.

Romans 7:7

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.”

Covetousness

grk: epithumeo

a deep desire, a lusting after someone and or something that someone else has.

We know that Paul was a man of

Great historic achievement in his religion & nation and known to be a profound scholar.

When Paul spoke of the Law, he was almost always speaking

of the 10 Commandments. There was among the Jews, the Moral codes as well Ethical & Social codes – But it appears that Paul was rightly fixated on The 10 Commandments.

Before Paul had met Jesus Christ, when he was still a Saul,

He - in his mind saw himself as a very righteous man and a great example of what it meant to be a Jew dedicated to Judaism.

Philippians 3:4-6

Though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

We are not sure if Paul's spiritual awakening began prior to Acts 9, had it been going on for years? Had he become frustrated and defeated with his religious pursuits? What had happened before and what was happening then in his life? What was it that had been preparing him to meet Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus Syria?

Could this be what is wrong with you right now?
Could it be that you're feeling frustrated and defeated no matter what your achievements have been to date?

This we know for sure. At some moment in time – Paul was reading again or thinking again about the 10 commandments and suddenly....

The Truth Shook Him At His Core

Exodus 20:17

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

The 1st. and the 10th. Commandments are like massive pillars of truth that seem to stand like sentinels among the others.

Paul's Thought

"Wait a minute - why am I now troubled by wanting what I am now told I cannot have?"

Well Now I Really Want It More Than Ever.

There is a Hotel in Florida

That is literally built over the water. So, before the hotel had its grand opening, management decided to put a sign on the glass of all the balcony sliders saying;

"No Fishing From The Balcony"

Galatians 3:21-25

Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. 22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

Tutor / Schoolmaster grk: paidagōgós
a trainer of boys, an assigned tutor, a developer of
boys to men in the area of the disciplines.

End of Study

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