

- Which Says That:
 - We Have “Become Dead To The Law!”
 - And Now - “We Are Delivered From The Law!”
 - Which Are Also True!
- 4. So - How, Then, Are We To Take:
 - The Law Of God?
 - His Moral Law - As Revealed To Us Especially:
 - In The Ten Commandments?
 - Well - This Is What The Apostle Paul Takes Up Next:
 - In Romans 7!
 - And - The Reason Why:
 - God’s Law Has Fallen On Hard Times:
 - Even In The Lives Of Christians And:
 - The Teachings Of Churches:
 - Is Because They / And Perhaps Even We:
 - Don’t Read Far Enough!
 - Because - In Romans 7:7-12 - Paul Addresses A Major Concern:
 - About God’s Law:
 - “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. / But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. / For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. / And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. / For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. / Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!”
- 5. Paul Knew That:
 - What He Had Already Written:
 - About God’s Law:
 - Could Easily Be Taken The Wrong Way:
 - Even To The Point Where:
 - God’s Law Could Be Considered The Very Cause Of Sin!
 - “Is The Law Sin?”
 - Because - If What Paul Wrote:
 - Is True - About:
 - The Dominion Of The Law!
 - Our Death To The Law! And:
 - Our Deliverance From The Law!
 - Then - It Would Seem That The Law:
 - Is More A Tool In The Devil’s Tool-Box Than In God’s!
 - So - “Is The Law Sin?”
 - Well - Without Giving This Question:
 - Even A Second Thought:
 - Paul Answers Unequivocally:
 - “God Forbid!” - Or:
 - “May It Never Be!”
 - This Question:
 - Is Actually - **Out** Of The Question:
 - Because - The Law Of God:
 - Reflects:
 - His Own Nature!
 - And Forever Remains:
 - His Own Servant!
 - 6. And So - Under The Inspiration:
 - Of God Himself - God The Holy Spirit:
 - Paul Explains The True Nature:
 - Of God’s Moral Law!
 - And - We Need To Remember These Truths:
 - Lest God’s Law Falls On Hard Times In Our Own Lives As Well!

* Because - The First Thing We See About God's Law Is:

1. ***The Great Exposure Of God's Law!***

- The Great Exposure - That Is:

- What God's Law Actually Exposes!

- 7:7 - "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet!"

- ***God's Law Exposes Sin!***

- It Exposes:

- What Sin Is And What Sin Does!

- **IE:** When A Journalist Writes A Story About Crime And Corruption In High Places - It Is Often Called An **Expose** - Because It Is Bringing To Light Things That Were Hidden From View!

- And - This Is What God's Law Is:

- It Is God's On **Expose** On Sin:

- Bringing To Light Those Things That Are Done In Darkness!

- And - The Apostle Paul:

- Understood This Personally:

- Because Of How God Used The Law:

- To Open His Eyes:

- To His Own Sin Against God!

- So - All Throughout Chapter 7:

- Paul Writes In The First Person:

- To Share His Own Personal Testimony!

- But - In Doing So:

- He Shows How God Works In The Hearts Of All Men:

- Through The Power Of His Word & His Law!

- So - He Reveals:

- The Illumination Of God's Law:

- In 7:7 - When He Writes:

- "I had not known sin, but by the law!"

- God Used His Law:

- To Show Paul:

- The True Nature Of Sin In His Life!

- And This Is Necessary:

- Because - For A Sinner:

- Sin Isn't Sin!

- Sin Is Natural:

- For A Sinner!

- Sin Is Normal:

- To A Sinner! And:

- Sin Is Even Necessary:

- For A Sinner!

- So - God Devised A Way:

- To Break Into Our Hearts & Minds:

- As Sinners - In Order To:

- Illuminate Our Understanding:

- Of Sin!

- And So - He Gave Us:

- His Law!

- So - God's Law:

- Doesn't Conceal Sin! God's Law:

- Doesn't Condone Sin!

- And - God's Law Certainly:

- Doesn't Cause Sin!

- No - Instead - It Exposes Sin:

- And Illuminates The Nature Of Sin:

- Within The Conscience Of A Sinner!

- Sinners Like Paul & Us!

- But Then - Paul Further Reveals:

- The Illustration Of God's Law:
 - In The Rest Of 7:7 - When He Specifically Focuses On:
 - The Tenth Commandment Of Gods Law:
 - "For I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet!"
 - Once Again - The Apostle Paul:
 - Is Giving His Personal Testimony Here:
 - And - In Effect - He Is Saying That:
 - God Used The Tenth Commandment To Break Into His Hard Heart And Expose The True Nature Of His Sinful Condition!
 - You See - Before His Conversion To Jesus Christ:
 - Paul Had Been A Faithful & A Fervent Jew!
 - He Was Much Like The Rich Young Ruler In Matthew 19 - Who - When Confronted With By Jesus With A List Of The Commandments Said:
 - "All These Things Have I Kept From My Youth: What Lack I Yet?" (19:20)
 - To Paul - God's Law Was Like A Check-List!
 - He Could Go Through Them One At A Time:
 - And Say:
 - I Believe And Worship God!
 - I Don't Take His Name In Vain!
 - I Remember The Sabbath!
 - I Honor My Parents!
 - I've Never Killed Anyone!
 - I've Never Committed Adultery!
 - I've Never Stolen!
 - And - I Don't Lie!
 - But - He Didn't Understand:
 - The True Nature Of God's Law:
 - Until God Opened His Eyes & Heart:
 - To The Tenth Commandment:
 - Which Reveals That Sin Is Not Just Something You Do On The Outside:
 - It Is Something That Begins In The Heart!
 - You See - Lust & Covetousness:
 - Is The "Root Of All Sins!"
 - And When Confronted With This Commandment:
 - The Self-Righteous Pharisee That Paul Was:
 - Understood His True Nature For The First Time - And - The True Nature Of Sin!
- God's Law Exposes Sin!
 - And This Is A Good Thing For A Sinner!
 - Because - This Is Exactly What Needs To Happen To You:
 - Before You Can Cry Out To God:
 - For The Help & Deliverance You Need!
 - "God Be Merciful To Me A Sinner!" (Lk. 18:13)
 - The First Step In Repentance From Sin:
 - Is The Realization Of Sin!
 - And - When God Exposes Your Sin:
 - Through His Word & Through His Commandments:
 - It Means That God Himself Is At Work!

* But Then - Sadly - Paul Reveals Something Else - And That Is:

2. ***The Great Exploitation Of God's Law!***

- The Great Exploitation - That Is:
 - What Sin Does With God's Law!
 - **IE:** When Sin Is Exposed By God And His Law - It Will Not Be Exposed Without A Fight! Like The Man Who Ran Last Week From The Authorities - Not Far From Here - When They Went To Arrest Him!
 - This Is What Sin Is Like - When It Is Exposed To The Law Of God!

- 7:8-11 - “But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. / For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. / And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. / For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me!”
 - In Verses 8 & 11 - We Find The Same Phrase:
 - “But / For Sin – Taking Occasion By The Commandment!”
- The Commandment Paul Is Referring To:
 - Is The Tenth Commandment:
 - That Really Hit Home With Him:
 - In His Conscience!
 - But - What God Meant For Good:
 - The Devil Sought To Use:
 - For Even More Evil:
 - And To Entrap Paul In His Sin!
- This Is What It Means When It Says That:
 - “Sin” – Was – “Taking Occasion By The Commandment!”
 - Sin - Which Is Personified Here:
 - Saw Its Chance & Took The Opportunity:
 - To Use God’s Own Law:
 - For Its Own Nefarious Purposes!
- And The First Way:
 - Sin Exploits God’s Law:
 - Is That:
- Sin Defiles Us!
 - 7:8a - “But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence!”
 - “Concupiscence” Here Is The Same Word:
 - For “Lust” In 7:7!
 - Basically - When God Told Paul:
 - Through The Tenth Commandment:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Covet – Lust!”
 - Then - Sin Woke Up From Its Slumber Within Him:
 - And Stirred Up In His Heart All Kinds Of Lusts And Wicked Desires!
 - **IE:** Like A Child Doing The Exact Opposite Of What It Is Told! Or An Adult! Or You! Or Me!
 - Our Indwelling Sin:
 - Stirs Us Up & Stimulates Us:
 - To Sin Even More:
 - When We Are Confronted With The Law Of God!
 - But - There Is Another Way:
 - That Sin Exploits God’s Law As Well!
 - As We Find In 7:11:
- Sin Deceives Us!
 - 7:11a - “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me!”
 - Sin Is Deceitful!
 - Because - Like The Serpent In The Garden Of Eden:
 - It Masks The Deadly Poison Of Its Venomous Bite:
 - With Luscious Lies!
 - Isn’t This What Happened:
 - In The Garden Of Eden:
 - To Our Earliest Mother - Eve?
 - In Genesis 3:1-5:
 - The Devil Tempted Eve:
 - To Doubt God - His Nature & His Word - By Deceiving Her!
 - “Yea, Hath God Said?”
 - The Serpent Asked!
 - “Ye Shall Not Surely Die!”
 - The Serpent Adds! And:
 - “God Doth Know That – Ye Shall Be As Gods!”
 - The Serpent Said!

- The Sin Of The Serpent:
 - Will Always Lie To You & Deceive You!
- It Will Claim To You That:
 - **Its** Promises:
 - Are Better Than:
 - **God's** Promises!
- It Will Try To Convince You That:
 - **Its** Pleasures:
 - Are Greater Than:
 - **God's** Pleasure!
- But - Once You Take That Bite:
 - You Will Find That:
 - The Pleasures Of Sin:
 - Only Last For A Season! And:
 - The Promise Of Sin:
 - Is A Lie - And Instead Of Life:
 - Leads To Death!
- And Sin Will Use God's Laws & Commandments:
 - Which God Designed As A Tool:
 - To Awaken Your Conscience:
 - To Your Sinfulness & Neediness!
 - And It Will Turn Them Against You:
 - As A Weapon:
 - To Bludgeon Your Soul:
 - Into Further Submission To Its Wicked Will!
- God's Law Is Exploited By Sin!
 - And This Very Fact:
 - Shows To Us That:
 - God's Law Must Be A Good Thing!
 - Otherwise - Why Would Sin Be So Threatened By It?
 - But - Right In The Middle:
 - Of This Description By Paul:
 - Of How Sin Exploits God's Law:
 - He Adds:

3. ***The Great Experience Of God's Law!***

- The Great Experience Of God's Law:
 - In His Own Life!
 - 7:8b-10 - "For without the law sin was dead. / For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. / And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death!"
 - Here Is Paul's Personal Testimony:
 - Of How God Used The Law:
 - In His Own Life!
 - Because - At First - He Was Living A Relatively:
 - Carefree Life!
 - 7:8b-9a - "For without the law sin was dead. / For I was alive without the law once!"
 - Paul Is Not Here Talking About:
 - Spiritual Death & Life:
 - As We Are Most Familiar With From His Writings!
 - He Is Describing His Experience:
 - As A Faithful & A Fervent Jew:
 - Who Was Very Ambitious - He Thought:
 - For God!
 - He Was Living His Life:
 - According To His Own:
 - Aims & Aspirations!
 - In Philippians 3:5-6 - He Writes:

- “Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; / Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless!”
- And So - As Far As He Was Concerned:
 - He Was AOK With God!
 - He Felt Secure & Satisfied:
 - And Under No Conviction Of Personal Sin!
- Sin Seemed So Dead To Him:
 - And - He Felt So Alive!
 - Perhaps - This Is How Someone Here Or is Listening Feels Today!
 - But - This Is A Dangerous Condition For A Sinner!
 - And - This Is Why God Gave Us His Law!
- Because - Somewhere Along The Way:
 - Paul’s Carefree Life Turned Into A:
- Confronted Life!
 - 7:9b - “But when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died!”
 - God - In His Grace:
 - Confronted Paul:
 - By Using His Law Like A Hammer:
 - To Crush & To Humble His Proud Heart!
 - And When God Started:
 - Awakening Paul’s Conscience:
 - To The Internal Sin In Paul’s Heart:
 - Paul’s Carefree Life:
 - Was Over!
 - “Sin Revived” - Paul Says!
 - This Means That:
 - Not Only Did God Bring Him To A Greater Awareness Of His Sin:
 - But Sin Itself Realized That The Fight Was On Again:
 - For The Soul Of Paul!
 - You See - The Normal Life:
 - Of A Sinner - Without Christ:
 - Is A Life:
 - Without Concern Or Care:
 - For The Things Of God!
 - But - When God Breaks Through:
 - With His Law:
 - The Devil Knows His Purpose:
 - And - The Devil Knows His Power!
 - So - Sin Is Reactivated:
 - In A More Powerful Way!
 - And That Is Why Paul Adds:
 - “And I Died!”
 - He Started To Feel:
 - The Soul-Crushing Weight:
 - Of Doubt And Distress And Despair:
 - Caused By Sin!
 - John Gill - “He Saw Himself As A Dead Man, Dead In Sin, Dead In Law, Under A Sentence Of Death – All His Hopes Of Eternal Life By His Obedience To The Law Died At Once!”
 - Perhaps - These Were Some Of:
 - “The Pricks” That He Was Kicking Against:
 - Before Jesus Called Him:
 - To Faith And To Life:
 - On The Road To Damascus!
 - But - Sin Kept Driving Him:
 - Into A Greater Hopelessness:
 - In His Sin!
 - “God Can’t Save You!”

- “You Are Too Far Gone!”
- “There’s No Hope For You!”
- And So - Paul Further Experienced A:
 - Condemned Life!
 - 7:10 - “And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death!”
 - This Too Was The Experience Of That Early German Reformer Of The Church:
 - Martin Luther!
 - “Martin Luther Was Struggling To Obey The Ten Commandments. Somebody Told Him: ‘Why Don’t You Just Concentrate On Loving God?’ Martin Luther Fired Back At Him: ‘Love God? Sometimes I Hate Him!’”
- This Is Often:
 - The Experience Of God’s Law:
 - In The Lives Of Sinners!
 - **This** Is Why People Want:
 - The Ten Commandments:
 - Out Of The Courtrooms!
 - **This** Is Why People:
 - Don’t Want To Hear About:
 - The Law Of God!
 - Because God Uses His Law:
 - To Break Into:
 - Your Quiet & Care-Free Conscience!
 - But - When This Happens:
 - Its A Good Thing!
 - Because It Means That God Is At Work!
- Because - It Reveals That:
 - Your Only Hope:
 - Can Be Found In God:
 - And His Righteousness:
 - Not In Yourself:
 - And Your Own Self-Righteousness!
 - **You Need A Savior!**
 - And That Savior Is Jesus Christ!
 - But This Leads Paul & Us To:

4. ***The Great Essence Of God’s Law!***

- The Great Essence:
 - Which We Find In:
 - 7:12 - “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!”
 - In Answer To The Question:
 - Of 7:7 - “Is The Law Sin?”
 - This Is The Answer!
 - 7:12 - “Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good!”
 - You See:
 - The Nature Of The Law:
 - Reflects & Reveals To Us:
 - The Nature Of The Giver Of The Law:
 - God Himself!
 - So - The Essence Of God’s Law:
 - As A Whole:
 - Is That It Is:
 - Holy!
 - “Wherefore the law is holy!”
 - To Be “Holy” Means:
 - To Be Set Apart & Special!
 - And This Describes God And His Law!
 - It Is Perfect:
 - And Complete!

- It Is Pure:
 - Without Defilement!
- It Is Purposeful:
 - With A Special Design To Accomplish God's Will!
- John Gill - "It Is A Transcript Of The Holy Nature Of God, A Declaration Of His Holy Will!"
 - But - Even More:
- The Essence Of God's Law:
 - In Its Parts:
 - Is That It Is:
 - Holy And Just And Good!
 - Holy!
 - In That Each Commandment:
 - Is Perfect And Pure:
 - Forming A Tapestry That Reveals God's Own Character and Will!
 - Because - That Which Pleases Him Is Like Unto Him!
 - It Is Also:
- Just!
 - Like God:
 - His Commandments:
 - Are No Respector Of Persons!
 - They Are Clear:
 - And They Are Fair!
 - They Apply To Each Person:
 - Equally!
 - They Are Also Changeless:
 - And Immutable:
 - They Are Not Arbitrary!
 - And So - They Are Also:
- Good!
 - God's Commandments Are Truly:
 - A Beautiful Thing!
 - They Radiate the Beauty Of God's On Character:
 - And Reveal His Love For The Creatures He Has Made!
 - They Are Good! Because They Are Also:
 - A Beneficial Thing!
 - In Fact - It Is What God Uses:
 - To Point To The Only One Who Can Give Us Hope!
 - Galatians 3:24 - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith!"
 - This Is The Great Essence Of God's Law!
 - It Is Holy And Just And Oh, So Good!

Conclusion:

1. So - Don't Let The Law Of God:
 - Fall On Hard Times:
 - In Your Own Heart And Life!
 - And - Don't Let Your Sin:
 - Exploit God's Law:
 - By Causing You To Think That There Is No Hope For You!
2. Because - This Is Why Jesus Came!
 - 1 Timothy 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acception, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief!"
 - Now - How Did Paul Come To Know:
 - That He Was The "Chiefest" Of Sinners?
 - Through God's Own Law!
3. If God Is Confronting You:
 - And Convicting You:
 - Of Your Sin - Through His Law:

- And - Through His Commandments:
 - ***That Is Good!***
 - That Is Right Were You Need To Be!
 - Because - Then & Only Then:
 - Will You Be In The Place:
 - Where You See Your Need Of:
 - An All-Sufficient Savior:
 - And Turn To & Trust In Jesus:
 - Alone!
4. Don't Let Your Sin:
 - Use God's Law:
 - To Keep You From:
 - God Himself!
 - Stop Kicking Against The Pricks!
 - Instead - Let God Use His Law:
 - To Draw You To Himself:
 - Through The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - Because:
 - Even Though God's Law:
 - ***Does*** Reveal Just How Truly ***Bad:***
 - We Are!
 - It ***Also*** Reveals:
 - Just How Truly ***Good:***
 - God Is!
 - To Send Jesus:
 - To Seek And To Save:
 - Sinners Just Like Us!

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