

Romans 7; Lord's Day 2

ACCURATE KNOWLEDGE OF MISERY BY THE LAW

- I. My misery.
 - A. Everyone needs Jesus the Savior, but only some know that they need Him.
 - 1. We know this need only by knowing our sin – who and what we are by nature.
 - 2. Important to correct knowledge of self is that misery is the result given to indicate something is wrong.
 - 3. Unless we see the cause of our misery and treat it, there will be no deliverance and recovery.
 - B. Aware of his misery, natural man uses the standard of himself and thus only increases his misery.
- II. The correct standard for evaluating misery is God – as He reveals Himself in His law.
 - A. God's law is not just some great principles (put in courthouses), but it reflects God Himself.
 - B. God's law, reflecting His own perfection, requires one thing: love (Rom. 13:10): "want to" is the heart of "must."
 - 1. The demand of love for God examines the heart, the motive of the mind and sub-consciousness.
 - 2. Further, true love for God is reflected in loving our neighbor as ourselves (I John 4:20,21).
 - C. Sin is missing the mark which God's law identifies for us.
- III. The law shows me the deep-seated cause of my misery is me.
 - A. The correct identification of me: I have a natural proneness to hate God and my neighbor.
 - 1. We are constantly self-centered, thinking of our rights, our interests, and what we think we deserve.
 - 2. No one is righteous; all have sinned and come short (Rom. 3:10,23); man's heart is desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9).
 - B. The true believer is the only one with the ability to admit honestly his natural and constant depravity.
 - C. But there is no reason to despair, for the same faith which acknowledges sin, also acknowledges justification (5:1 and 8:1).