

Monday, May 29, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 7:1–4

Questions from the Scripture text: What does v1 ask? What is the implied answer? To whom is he speaking? How long is the law someone's lord? What type of person does v2 talk about? What binds her to her husband? For how long? What happens if her husband dies? What does the law call her if she marries another while her husband is alive (v3)? What is she free from? What is she free to do? What does the apostle call them a second time in v4 (cf. v1)? What has happened to them? Who/what was their master by covenant, while they were under the law? Through Whose body did they become dead to this law and free from this master? To Whom are they married now? What has happened to Him? What does this mean that they are free to do?

How can a man bear fruit unto God? Romans 7:1–4 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **for a sinner to be free to be married to the risen Christ, free to bear fruit unto God, he must die first to be released from his slave-marriage to sin; and, this can only happen through the body of Christ.**

We've just heard that the path to everlasting life must go through holiness (6:22). But here is a great problem. However he tries in himself, man cannot be holy. Ultimately, the solution is that man must come out of being in himself and be in Christ instead. Being in Christ is the only way to bear fruit unto God, because it is the only way to come out of being a slave of sin.

For worse or for worse. Adam's children have been bound by law as slaves to sin because this is what they deserve. The wages of sin is death, and the path to death is "those things of which you are now ashamed" (6:22). So, since we "know the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death" (1:32), we know that for worse or for worse, we are married to sin precisely because the law demands our death.

Till death do us part (or join). But here, in these four verses, is an amazing reminder of something else that we know: marriage is "until death do us part." And so is the marriage in which the law has bound us to sin. It does so because the wages of our sin is death. But what if that wage is paid? What if the obligation is fulfilled? We would be free from the law that demands that we stay bound to sin.

Happily ever after. But wouldn't we then be dead? Not at all, for if we die to that law "through the body of Christ" (v4), that death comes by way of a new marriage. And that new marriage is to One Who has risen from the dead. So, it is now "adultery" when we sin. And, our new marriage, in which we bear fruit to God, can never end. In fact, it is those who arrive at the judgment still bound to sin that will die the second death that keeps on going forever.

What end does the law demand for sin? To what must sinners be bound until this happens? What is the only way to die and still live? What kind of fruit does this life produce?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for killing our old self in Christ. That self was married to sin, as deserved and demanded by Your law. Now, give our new self to bear fruit for You, since we are married to Christ, Who has risen from the dead and lives forever, we ask in Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH466 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans chapter 7, verses 1 through 4. These are God's words. Or 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 lifts For the woman who has a husband is bound by law to her husband.

As long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. 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 adulterous.

Though? She has married another man. 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. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent work.

Here we are reminded. Of the nature of covenant that. Um, And the covenant you are bound. Uh, to The one to whom you are joined. When? Uh, a man and a woman marry. One of the promises they make is For better, or for worse. The problem with being bound to sin, Is that it's not for better or for worse.

It is for worse or for worse. When we are. Uh, married to sin when we are bound to sin as we came to be rightfully. So When we send an atom and we fell with him, and Here. And these four verses is one of the Bible proofs. That the arrangement in the garden.

Was a covenant and so we call it the covenant of works when we talk about that. Which was our obligation or as sometimes in our confession, for instance, That is called the covenant of life. When we talk about that, which you would receive. As the reward of the covenant.

But here we have. A Bible evidence of Scripture evidence that the arrangement in the garden as a covenant. And, There's a covenant in which Having sinned, we are by the law. Bound. Two cent became slaves of sin and were free in regard to righteousness. Coming out of the end of Roman six and into the beginning of random seven.

We see that, the the question is, Uh, are we going to bear fruit unto God? Are we going to be the sorts of people? Who don't consider having a hell because he is there. But who consider having a heaven? Because he is there. Are we going to be holy?

And if we are holy and find our delight in him, find our pleasure in him. Are we going to be holy in our purpose and holy in our produce that our purpose would be to honor him? And what we would produce is fruit unto God or the fruit. Of.

Well, under holiness. So fruit unto holiness is from six verse 22, which we had last week fruit and to God, concludes our passage in verse 4. But we cannot. So long. As we are bound to sin. If we are under God's wrath and curse having sinned in Adam. His law demands.

That we not be released. And we are unable. To bear fruit and the holiness. We are unable to bear fruit unto God. So, Uh, we were on the path. Uh, to death.

We were married to sin precisely because The law demands our death. And, Uh, demands that we be kept on the path to death in the path to death is sin.

The wages of sin is death. But there is something else that. We say in our marriage, vows That the Apostle is taking advantage of here by the Holy spirit, as he writes to help us understand. And that is Till death. Do us part. Till death do us part. And so he says, therefore my brethren, you also have become dead.

To the law. Through the body of christ. The law demanded. That we be married to sin. Until we die. And until that death came. We were. Required until that death comes. A sinner is required to be kept under sin. To be kept on the path that leads to death.

That is the consequence of Adam sin. But, If we come to, To die. And not just death as the separation of the soul in the body. But death, as the suffering of the fullness of the wrath of god. Then the law is satisfied. As far as the law is concerned, we have died as far as the law is concerned.

We are free from that covenant bond. We no longer have to be bound to sin. The for worse. Or for worst part of our life or our existence is over. Because death has parted us. From sin. Now, the problem with needing an eternal or infinite death in order to be parted from sin.

As there is only one Who has ever had a body. Who is equal in glory to god himself. And that is the lord jesus christ. Because god, the son took to himself a body. So that we being united to him, through faith may have him as our last Adam.

And if our death, Which is the wages of sin comes in jesus. Then it has come over the course of a few hours. On a cross once for all. But if our death, that comes as a wages of sin, Comes not in jesus. But in ourselves, Then it will be the everlasting death.

Of the lake of fire. One of the reasons why. We know that hell must be everlasting torment. Is because otherwise god would be unjust. Otherwise jesus would have overpaid. But, If you believe in jesus christ, Then the law. Looks at what happened to you on the cross with jesus.

And says yep. He died. She died. He suffered the fullness of the wrath of god. Uh, for his sin in christ. And so he says, therefore my brethren. You also have become dead to the law, as far as the law is concerned. Through the body of christ. And the law says, you can marry another.

Just like, Uh, sometimes sadly. I a christian man or a woman will be married. And, They're unbelieving spouse. Will divorce them. And then we have a church trial. The elders. Assemble as a court. To here, what has happened? And to make a determination. And if The christian. Has been deserted by.

Their husband or wife? If the questions husband or wife has committed adultery against them, It is as a death. And we say, to, Uh, the innocent believer who has been divorced by another We say to them. In our judgment. It is just as if your spouse had died. You are free to marry.

Well, when you believe in jesus christ and you are joined to him in his death, And his death is an infinite death. That is not just the separation of the soul and the body. But the suffering of the fullness of the wrath of god for sin, Then the law comes and says, In the eyes of god's law.

As far as god's law is concerned. You. Died. And sin no longer has a claim upon you. The terms of that covenant have been fulfilled as far as you are concerned and you are now free to remarry. And, And the spirit of god, of course, Uh, has at that point already.

Joined you to him, not only who has died, but who has raised from the dead? 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 debt. And, Uh, that means that The believer has a storybook marriage.

A storybook wedding. Or a ferry, but fairy tale wedding, except for That it's true. But the reason we say storybook or fairy tale is because it truly is happily ever after. When we come to faith in jesus christ, we're not only delivered from Um, the law to which we were bound.

Uh, by covenant, and And therefore we're slaves to sin. And, But we are joined to one who has risen from the dead. And having been raised from the dead, he will never die again. And what do we do? When we are joined to him? When we were, when we were joined, Uh, to To send and to death.

And on our way to death because the wages of sin is death and therefore slaves have sin. Um, the fruit that we bore was always the harming of ourselves as we did the things of which we are now ashamed. But now that we are joined to the lord, jesus christ.

And have received as a free gift. The life, the everlasting life that is in him. We bear the fruit that corresponds. To the life. That is ours. And We're coming into the possession of it and we're coming into the enjoyment of it. And holiness. Is necessary to come into the possession of it.

And holiness is necessary. To come into the enjoyment of it. And now, We bear fruit. Unto god. And so is happily ever after. Already, we are. Happy in christ trusting in christ, joined to christ. Bound to him. We have started. Not as. Consistent and not as excellent as it shall be at the last, but we have started to bear fruit and to god.

We've started to bear fruit and the holiness. And these little first fruits. That we have started to bear. Uh, we'll continue to grow. Until the only thing we bear. This holiness. Obedience service, love to god. And it is of consistent and excellent quality forever. As we live with the lord jesus.

Happily ever after. And so it's important isn't it? That we Understand. That the arrangement in the garden was a covenant of works. That's important that we understand marriage as a covenant. And how that works. So that we may be encouraged and strengthened and to know That once we have been bound to christ, Nothing can ever take that away from us.

And once we have begun to bear a little bit of fruit of holiness, We're on the path everlasting life. And we shall increasingly bear, that fruit. More excellently. Bear, that fruit. And we won't. Fall into or this will help protect us against falling into ways of thinking that say, oh, well.

And now that i'm joined to jesus and i have forgiveness, i can sin as much as i want. No, we say now that i'm drawing to jesus And have union with him. I am freed from sin. And i can increasingly and more excellently. Obey. And live a holy life.

Until that is perfected forever. In our, Holy ever after. And our happily. Ever after. So, As you have opportunities, either to sin or to do righteousness, You have opportunities. Enjoy. The new covenant relation that you have. As bound to jesus christ. For the rest of today. And for the rest of your life.

But just now, i want you to make that. Particular effort for the rest of today. To enjoy that. You are bound to christ. And express that you are bound to christ. By bearing fruit of holiness. And don't be discouraged. By how smaller inconsistent it may be. If you find that you haven't been, Resolve again.

Trusting in jesus knowing that you belong to him. That you're going to try again. Because you shall at last. Have your holy ever after and you're happy and you

have happily ever after. Right. Father, we thank you for this portion of your word and thank you for how clearly it tells us.

About the difference that being joined to Jesus makes in our daily life. And about the connection between what we will enjoy and be like forever. And how we are to live today. We pray that your spirit would write its truth on our hearts even like we heard about, Uh, and explaining the catechism question.

Grant these things, we ask in Jesus name, Amen.