

— Romans 7.7-13 —
Romans Series 40
Understanding the Law 2

Romans 7:7 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. 13 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.

* **The post hoc fallacy** of logic asserts that because one event follows another, it must have been _____ by the other. E.g., Because sunrise follows shortly after the crowing of the rooster, the crowing of the rooster must have _____ the sun to rise. That kind of reasoning, in a more complex form, is what Paul is dealing with in our text. In the life of Israel as a whole, the giving of the law was followed by more _____, guilt, condemnation, and judgment. So it would be very easy to conclude that the law _____ those negative results, which then leads to the conclusion that the law is the problem; the law is sin. Paul wants to make sure we don't _____ into that trap. Paul is going to show us that something else, hiding behind the law, was the real culprit. And Paul is going to show us that the law is good (1) because it shows us how to _____ God and neighbor; (2) because it exposes the real _____ of human sins, guilt, condemnation, and judgment; and (3) because it shows people their _____ for salvation thru Christ.

* **Paul** begins in vs 7 by presenting the _____ straight out: "Is the law sin?" And Paul gives us the answer: "Certainly not!" In vs 12, Paul states the conclusion positively: "The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and _____." In between, and in vs 13, Paul tells us why it seemed like the law was the problem, and what God was up to in giving the law.

* **In** Rom ch 7, Paul uses himself, prior to his conversion, as a representative _____.

* **In** vs 7, Paul focuses on the tenth commandment against _____, because (1) it applies exclusively to the _____, and thus is not something that people universally think of as wrong; and (2) because it ironically resulted in him coveting _____, not _____. Paul describes sin as an active _____ operating within him, and the good command against coveting was viewed by sin as an _____ to produce more coveting than ever before.

* **In** vs 8-10, Paul talks about how it _____: Before the law, Paul was fine, but then the law came, brought sin to life, and _____ to Paul.

* **In** vs 11-13, Paul explains what was really happening & why. It wasn't really the law that caused death; it was _____. Paul here is using the word "sin" to refer to a _____ that operates upon us and within us, bending us to its _____.

* **The Bible** uses similar reasoning regarding Jesus himself:
John 3.17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Jesus came into the world to _____, not to condemn. Yet his coming resulted in condemnation for many. But his coming was not the _____ of their condemnation; the cause was their own evil. Jesus' coming simply _____ their evil, because they would not come to Jesus, even though he brought salvation. While this deeper exposure of sin resulted in condemnation, it also resulted in salvation, for it was used by God to expose the true nature of sin, and the true _____ for salvation that only Jesus can provide. It's the same thing with the _____ (vs 13). Sin is like a snake; it prefers to slither in the bushes & operate in the background so that people are deceived as to its true nature and power. Thru the law, God _____ sin out, made it stand up to its full height, and show its full power.

* **This** is important because one of the biggest challenges in bringing salvation to the world is convincing the world of the true nature of its problem & of its true _____ for salvation.

* **We** call chemotherapy a radical cure because it just about _____ you. But that radical cure is judged to be worth it because cancer is a radical disease, and it's going to _____ you for sure, unless the chemo kills the cancer. If one doesn't have life threatening cancer, he will never sign up for chemo. The _____ is an even more radical cure than chemo, because it demands that you _____.

Mat. 16.25 "He who seeks to save his life will lose it."

It also demands that you _____ from the dead in new, glorified life, which is not within our capacity. That's why the Son of God came—to become one of _____, so he could live a perfect, so he would be qualified to _____ on the cross, so he could bear our _____, and enter into death on our behalf, so he could break the claim & power of _____ & death over us, so he could rise from the dead in new glorified life, so he could place his _____ within us, and through that spiritual union, communicate his death and resurrection to us, so that we we could share in his life, his _____, & his inheritance. That's a _____ cure, and no one is even going to listen to it, much less take it, unless they are convinced they have the disease that demands it.

* **One** of the most deeply ingrained convictions of fallen humanity is that all of its problems are _____ through proper education and a proper societal environment. Thus the perfection of mankind is achievable. Disproving that line of thought is a big part of what God was doing with _____. One part of what he was doing was preparing the way for the _____ and pointing people to him. But another part of what he was doing was showing people their _____ for this

coming, suffering Messiah. Thru the _____, God was setting up Israel with an ideal society, with knowledge of everything essential to freedom, prosperity, and human flourishing. And he was proving for all time that apart from the _____ working transformation within each heart & mind, none of it would make any difference. It would only result in greater _____, guilt, condemnation, and judgment.

* **When** you look all this, it's really hard to take it in—how many levels God was working on, all in love and wisdom, to bring _____ to the world through Christ, and to prepare the world for that salvation.

Rom 11.33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ... 36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.