

The “5 Truths” of the Gospel

Truth #1: Already Forgiven – all of your sins were forgiven on the Cross of Christ, except the sin of unbelief. Mark 3:28; Romans 5:10a; John 16:8-9

Truth #2: Made Clean – when you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, God takes out your old sinful spirit (heart) and gives you a brand, new clean heart. Romans 6:6; Romans 6:17-18; John 3:3,7

Truth #3: Made Righteous – as a Christian, you are now righteous in your spirit because Jesus, in the form of the Holy Spirit, lives in you. 2 Peter 1:4

Truth #4: In Union – you are “in Christ” because Jesus joins as one with you in your spirit. John 14:20; 1 Corinthians 6:17; Colossians 1:27

Truth #5: By Faith – you are righteous on the inside but your body is still dead to sin. Follow by faith the inner life of Christ so that you can live a righteous life. Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:3b

The “5 Keys” to Understanding the New Testament

Key #1: Teaching of the Holy Spirit - only the Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive since your human mind is incapable of understanding God’s spiritual truths. 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Key #2: Proper Context - the New Testament must be understood in its proper Jewish context. Otherwise, the message gets misinterpreted and is dramatically changed. Romans 9:4; John 4:22b

Key #3: Spiritual Beings - all people have an inner spirit and an outer mortal body. Christians have a “born again” spirit that is righteous, but they still live in their not-yet-redeemed mortal bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-6; Ephesians 4:24

Key #4: Jesus Emptied Himself - Jesus lived by the power of the Holy Spirit that He received at His baptism. Jesus lived by faith and not by His own power. Therefore, He is your model for a life of faith. John 14:10b; Matthew 12:28; Matthew 12:18

Key #5: Hebrew Law - God gave the Law only to the Jews; the Gentiles have never been under the Law. Romans 2:14; Hebrews 7:18, 28; Hebrews 8:13

Romans 7:1 Or do you not know, brethren (**for I am speaking to those who know the law**), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives? {Romans 7 was written to the Jews.}



Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? **Is the Law sin?** May it never be! ... [8] **But sin**, taking opportunity through the commandment, **produced in me coveting of every kind;**



Romans 7:13 Therefore **did that** {the Law} **which is good become a cause of death for me?** May it never be! **Rather it was sin**, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.

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True Tracts

Why Romans 7 is Not Speaking to Christians

Romans 7 is a difficult chapter to understand. Yet, scholars have historically misinterpreted it because it has been taken out of its proper Jewish context. Romans 7 is not speaking of Christians being hopelessly caught in the clutches of sin. Romans 6 just got finished declaring a believer’s freedom from sin.

Romans 7 is addressing two specific false charges being made against the Apostle Paul’s teaching.

Out of Context

The Bible was divided into chapters and verses more than 1,200 years after Christ walked on the earth. Being able to locate a particular verse or passage in is obviously valuable. But it has also led to the very serious problem of using Scripture out of context. “Proof texting” plucks a verse out of context to “prove” just about anything.

This is exactly what has happened in Romans 7; the traditional explanation of Paul being a “wretched man” trapped in sin is completely out of sync with what he just finished saying in Romans 5 and 6, and will say again in Romans 8. Even though Romans 7 may *feel* like it applies to you, it does not.

In Romans 5 and 6, the Apostle Paul explains how you have been set free from sin. The understanding of these two chapters has generally been lost because of two reasons: [1] the Church historically rejects the truth that Christians are righteous spiritual beings living in not-yet-redeemed mortal “tents” (see 2 Corinthians 5) and [2] the book of Romans was written primarily the Jews.

When you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior, God removed your old sinful spirit and replaced with a brand new, clean heart. Your old sinful nature is gone forever.

Romans 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, **in order that our body of sin might be done away with**, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;

This is how you were set free from sin – you were “born again.” Jesus lives in you so that you are now a slave to righteousness, not to sin.

Romans 6:18 and having **been** freed from sin, **you became slaves of righteousness**.

Out of Context (cont.)

As a Christian, you are completely righteous in your spirit; you cannot sin in your spirit because Jesus living in you cannot sin.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and **he cannot sin, because he is born of God**.

Romans was written primarily to the Jews because it is a detailed treatise on transitioning from Old Covenant Law to New Covenant grace; the Law was only given to Israel. Interpreting Romans as a Gentiles letter causes you to lose its real meaning.

Romans 8 identifies why the traditional interpretation of Romans 7 feels so true. Only your born again spirit has been redeemed thus far; your mortal body has not yet been redeemed - it is still dead to sin. But, your spirit is literally righteous; understanding this is a key to living a victorious life in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:10 If Christ is in you, **though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness**.

You can still sin in your mortal flesh. Many Christians are caught up in sin because they have no power to resist sin through their own human self-effort. This is why faith is so important. Righteous living comes by living from your union with Christ in your born again spirit and following Him by faith in your unredeemed mortal body. Christ lives His life in you and through you; you follow Him in faith.

Galatians 2:20 explains it the best ...

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 7

The traditional interpretation of Romans 7 has harmed the faith of millions of Christians. Paul is not speaking of himself as a man hopelessly caught up in sin against his will. Rather, Paul is refuting two different false charges that had been lodged against his teaching. (See back panel.) He first explains that, before Christ and while under the Law, the Law aroused sinful passions in him. False teachers subsequently accused him of teaching that the Law was sinful. Paul counters with the truth, in verses 7 - 12, that it was the indwelling sinfulness in him, not the Law, which caused him to sin. The Law was holy; he was the one who was not holy.

Then, in verses 13 – 25, Paul responds to the second false charge; he was accused of teaching that the Law caused the death of the people. Again, Paul says that it was sin {indwelling sinfulness}, not the Law, which caused the death of the people.

If you do not understand that you have been set free from sin in your spirit, how can you possibly understand how to live a righteous life in Christ? Righteousness comes from within your righteous born again spirit which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Most Christians try their best to live a life pleasing to God. Some appear righteous, at least to their own group, with their own lowered definition of righteousness. Many, however, feel defeated and slaves to sin. All Christians are still dead to sin in their mortal flesh, but they are all righteous in their born again spirits. Thus, the true Christian life comes from yielding your mortal flesh in faith so that Christ can live His righteous life *in* you and *through* you.