

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 7:4-6

Student Notes:

- **Was The Mosaic Law Bad?**

Romans 7:12: "So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good."

If God gave Moses the Law ... how could it have been bad in itself? The Mosaic Code was righteous and good because it was an extension of God's will.

Israel's experience: Possessing the Mosaic Code didn't improve their moral and spiritual dilemma. Possessing the Law is not equal to obeying it.

- **Out From Under The Law:** (See Romans 6:14-15)

It is not the Law that is taken out of us ... it is we who are taken out from under the Law.

Verse 4: "So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God."

- **Bearing Fruit:**

God's purpose in having us die to the Old Covenant and be joined to Christ is for us to "bear fruit". See: John 15:1-16

What did Jesus mean by being fruitful? Several answers: 1. The Fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23) 2. The Works of the Spirit: (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:7 and Colossians 1:10) 3. The Results of Sharing Our Faith: Matthew 5:16

- **Fruit For Death V. Fruit For Christ:**

Verse 5: "For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death."

Paul's contrast our two experiences: one under the Law and one out from under the Law.

1. Fruit for Death: Pointing back to Romans 6:16 "...**whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death ...**" We bore fruit to death: See, Galatians 5:19-21.

2. Fruit for God: How is that going to happen? Verse 6: "But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code."

"... We have been released from the law." (Paul refers back to Romans 7:2: "... but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.").

In this case it is we who have died – not the husband ... -- not the Law. The results are the same: "... We have been released from the law."

- **Released From The Law:**

God had a full-fledged system to transform us from slaves to fruitful Christians. Paul tells us about that system in rest of verse 6: "We serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code."

The key is in the spiritual geographies: The Mosaic Law was external: It was an external Law with external regulations, with an external obedience. See, Hebrews 9:6-10

Hebrews: A "new order" was inaugurated. Paul's concurrence: With Christ's death and resurrection, a new order came about. All the striving to keep and maintain God's holy, good, and righteous requirements shifted from external regulations to this: "... We serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter."

Next Time: More of this transformation to the New Order

