

GLORIOUS FREEDOM

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I. INTRODUCTION: WRETCHED MAN!

- A. In Romans, Paul explains “line by line” the glorious good news of Jesus Christ—justification, reconciliation, sanctification, and the ultimate glorification of the believer.
- B. But in Romans 7, he describes a **miserable condition** he himself had lapsed into *after* being saved (my personal experience!):

Rom. 7:9-24: ⁹Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and **I died**. ¹⁰I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually **brought death**. ¹¹For **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, **deceived me**, and through the commandment put me to death. ¹²So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it **produced death in me** through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but **I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin**. ¹⁵I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is **sin living in me**. ¹⁸I know that **nothing good lives in me**, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is **sin living in me that does it**. ²¹So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a **prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members**. ²⁴What a **wretched man** I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

1. Dead, deceived, unspiritual, slave, prisoner, wretched man—law of sin was at work in him producing death!

2. In vv.9-24, Paul uses the first-person pronouns (I, me, my, myself) over 40x! One preacher has referred to this as an overdose of Vitamin I! Searching for victory or purpose within *ourselves* is FUTILE!
3. But sooner or later, every believer encounters the battle Paul was having with the law of sin and death—it's the process called *sanctification* (Rom. 3-5 speaks about justification & reconciliation; Rom. 6-8 speaks about ongoing sanctification).

II. THANK GOD FOR JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!

- A. Paul answers his own question, “Who will rescue me...?”

Rom. 7:25: *²⁵Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

- B. Like the black velvet background in a jewelry display case, Paul paints a very dark, discouraging picture first; now he is going to bring out the jewels of the gospel—shining pearls & diamonds of truth contrasted with the wretchedness of man's sinfulness...

- C. **Free from the law of sin and death:**

Rom. 8:1-4: *¹Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, **God did by sending His own Son** in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so **He condemned sin** in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

1. A law with superior power has cancelled out the lesser law!
2. NO MORE CONDEMNATION, SIN OR DEATH!

- D. **Life in the Spirit:**

Rom. 8:5-14: *⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their **minds set on what the Spirit desires.** ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the **mind controlled by the Spirit** is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind*

is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

¹²Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if **by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds** of the body, you will live, ¹⁴because those who are **led by the Spirit of God** are sons of God.

1. Surrender control to the Holy Spirit.
2. Put to death sinful impulses in the body through the power of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5)

E. Children, heirs & co-heirs:

Rom. 8:15-18: ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of sonship**. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The **Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children**.

¹⁷Now if we are children, then we are heirs—**heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also **share in His glory**. ¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

1. No more fear or slavery!
2. Sonship, inheritance, sharing in His glory!

F. Hope of final redemption:

Rom. 8:19-25: ¹⁹The **creation waits** in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the One who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the **glorious freedom of the children of God**. ²²We know that the

whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we **wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.** ²⁴For in this **hope** we were saved. But **hope** that is seen is no hope at all. Who **hopes** for what he already has? ²⁵But if we **hope** for what we do not yet have, we **wait for it patiently.**

1. We wait in hope for final redemption of our bodies (resurrection).
2. Our hope is the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16-17).

G. Help from the Spirit:

Rom. 8:26-27: ²⁶In the same way, the **Spirit helps us in our weakness.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the **Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

H. Called, justified, glorified & predestined:

Rom. 8:28-30: ²⁸And we know that in all things **God works for the good** of those who love Him, who have been **called according to His purpose.** ²⁹For those God foreknew He also **predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son**, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

1. God has much bigger plans than you do!
2. If you will embrace His purpose, God will work EVERYTHING for your ultimate good!

I. God is for us:

Rom. 8:31-36: ³¹What, then, shall we say in response to this? **God is for us**, who can be against us? ³²He who **did not spare His own Son**, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, **graciously give us all things?** ³³**Who will bring any charge** against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴**Who is he that condemns?** Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship

or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
³⁶*As it is written: “For Your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

1. Who can accuse or condemn us? Satan, the accuser does!
(Rev. 12:11)
2. But One greater is justifying us and interceding for us!!!

J. More than conquerors:

Rom. 8:37-39: ³⁷*No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*** ³⁸*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,* ³⁹*neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

III. CONCLUSION

- A. God is for us—He has freed us from the law of sin and death, and from condemnation.
- B. We are sons & daughters, heirs and co-heirs—predestined to be like His Son and share in His glory!
- C. We have hope—glorious hope of His soon return and our resurrection!
- D. He loves us and we are more than conquerors through Him.