

## THREE LAWS OF ROMANS 8

Text: Romans 8:1-3

INTRO: In our text, Paul speaks of three laws: (1) the law of the spirit of life, (2) the law of sin & death, and (3) the law that could not take away sin. We will look at these three laws in the order of the appearance.

### I. THE LAW OF SIN & DEATH.

Gen 2:17, Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Ezek 18:4, 20, Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die... The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.

Rom 6:23, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

James 1:15, When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

### II. THE LAW OF MOSES, WHICH COULD NOT TAKE AWAY SIN.

A. The Law of Moses served to better identify sin & define its nature.

Rom 3:20, Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 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."

- B. It looked forward to and exemplified a Sacrifice which would someday take away sin.

Gal 3:19, 24-25. What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator... Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

- C. But with its animal sacrifices, offered repeatedly, it could never fully atone for sin or completely cleanse the conscience of the guilty sinner.

Heb 10:1-4, For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, & not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

### III. THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE CAN DO FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS WHAT THE LAW OF MOSES COULD NEVER DO.

- A. The New Testament or new covenant is the law of Christ. 2 Cor 3:7-17, But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious? For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds

much more in glory. For even what was made glorious had no glory in this respect, because of the glory that excels. For if what is passing away was glorious, what remains is much more glorious. Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech-- unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

1. James calls it the perfect law of liberty, James 1:25; 2:12.
2. He also calls it the royal law in James 2:8.
3. Paul calls it the law of Christ in Gal. 6:2, and the law of faith in Rom. 3:27.

B. The words of Jesus also point to this same truth.  
John 1:17; John 8:31-32

C. As Paul indicates in our text, this benefit obtains for the individual who is in Christ.

Gal 3:26-27, For you are all sons of God thru faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Rom 6:3-5, Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him thru baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted

together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

CONCLUSION: Have you exercised faith in Jesus Christ & been baptized into His death? If so, are you walking in newness of life, walking after the spirit, not according to the flesh? If not, why not do what you need to do...

Susquehanna, Marietta, February 15, 2004

Jonestown, TX, June 2, 2005 (meeting)

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 28, 2005