

Romans: A Study on Reformation  
Lesson 15 “The Answer to the Question ”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. The main problem Paul wanted to reform with the church in Rome was the relationship between the Jews and Gentiles. They were in strife about beliefs and practices associated with their faith and trying to impose their will on each other.

1. Paul did not want to revive this church. He wanted to reform it.
2. This is what God wants to do with church in America. If He sent revival that didn't lead to change in belief and practice it would just accelerate our idolatry.

B. Over the last few weeks we've been going through **Romans 5-6** and talking about identity in Christ. As believers we are now in Christ (the second Adam) and no longer in the first Adam. We now have a new nature as righteous and not as a sinner so we are supposed to live righteously.

C. Over the next couple of weeks we are going to begin studying **Romans 7-8** and how to walk free from sin. **Here's the key to understanding Romans 7. Romans 7 is the question, Romans 8 is the answer!**

II. The Answer to the Question - Paul makes series of statements about how can't do the good he wants to do and the evil he doesn't want to do, he keeps on doing. He then asks who will save me from this situation? The answer is contained in **Romans 8**. Most folks stop their Bible reading at **Romans 7:25** and feel hopeless and don't make the connection that the issues raised in **Romans 7** are answered by **Romans 8**.

**A. Romans 7:1-12 Trying Harder Doesn't Work**

1. **Verse 1** - The law has dominion (rule) over us as long as it lives and the law strengthens sin - **1 Corinthians 15:56**. We'll talk about how the law deceives us below.
2. **Verses 2-4 Marriage analogy** - Illustration If a woman marries another man while she's married, she's committing adultery. This is why the law dies when we marry Christ. Once we are married to Christ, the law has no more place.  
**Colossians 2:14**
3. **Verses 5-6** The law arouses our sinful passions.
  - a. Example: Don't come on this stage I'm going strike you. The minute I said that about 8 of you wanted to run on stage just to prove the point you could. What happened? The law aroused your sinful passions.

b. Second Example: How does the law arouse our sinful passions? We feel good when we do good. When we keep the law, we feel good.

**Roman 7:7-11.** The law revives sin and we die!

c. The other way the law arouses sin is when we begin to think about how we feel good when we do good and celebrate the law and admire the law, we get excited. It's kind of like thinking about that old spouse that died who we had some good memories with. We can get aroused. That's wrong. It's our new spouse, Jesus, that is supposed to excite us!

## B. Romans 7:13-Romans 8:1 How This Works Out Practically

1. **Romans 7** is the question. **Romans 8** is the answer! The difference is **Romans 8** introduces the idea of life through the spirit.
2. **Romans 7:13-16** The law is good, but it doesn't give us the capacity to live good. It's like mirror. It can show you what you look like, but it doesn't give you the ability to change.
3. **Verse 17** This is talking about our flesh not our spirit.
4. **Verses 18-25** We can all relate to these passages.
  - a. **Verse 20** Sin dwells in me. I thought we didn't have a sin nature? That's true in the spiritual part of ourself, but our flesh isn't brand new. One day, we will get a glorified body, but that day is not now. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** (spirit, soul, body).
  - b. The law of the inward man is talking about the Holy Spirit in us.
  - c. **Verse 24 The Question - Who's gonna save me from this wretched man that I a?**
5. **Romans 8:1 The answer! It's the power of the spirit that delivers us from the power of sin and death!** The Holy Spirit is mentioned 20 in **Romans 8** and only once in **Romans 7**.

III. Conclusion - The key to living holy isn't trying hard. That's a broken system. The key is giving up on ourselves and trusting in the spirit of God who is able to do that which our mortal bodies cannot.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to touch everyone.