# Audio file

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# Transcript

00:00:00

We now continue.

00:00:01

Our study of God's way of salvation.

00:00:05

And tonight, we wish to look more deeply into the subject of Bonniest ascend, which we introduced in our first study period the other day.

00:00:13

And our main area of consideration will be the 7th chapter of the Book of Romans, which deals of course with the very real problem of sin as a slave master over a very unwilling prisoner.

00:00:29

Let's turn to the 7th chapter of Randoms.

00:00:33

We'll omit for the moment the first few verses we deal with the two husbands, and we'll come back to that later on in our series.

00:00:42

We begin tonight with the ninth verse, which begins a series of arguments on Paul's part of illustrations demonstrating the problem, which is faced by a person who finds himself in banished to the power of sin.

00:00:59

In verse nine, we read these words, for I was alive without the law once.

00:01:06

But when the commandment came, sin revived and I died for a sin for.

00:01:13

And the commandment which was a danger to life.

00:01:16

I found to be under death.

00:01:18

For a sin taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me and by its slur me, wherefore the law is holy.

00:01:27

And the commandment, Holy and justice and good, was then that which is good may death unto me, God forbid but sin, that it might appear sin working death in me by the.

00:01:43

That which is.

00:01:44

The sin by the commandment might become.

00:01:46

Exceeding sinful.

00:01:51

Pull here is very obviously contrasting two different eras in your life experience.

00:01:59

First of all, he says in verse.

00:02:00

Nine for I was alive without the law once.

00:02:05

Then, he says. But when the commandment clang so very obviously, we can talk in terms of Paul's life before the commandment came and Paul's life after the commandment.

00:02:18

And there is a very definite difference between those two experiences.

00:02:25

One great writer, EJ Wagenheim by name, makes the observation that prior to the entrance of the law into Paul's experience, he was literally a willing Sinner.

00:02:36

A man without conviction.

00:02:39

A man who day by day went about his sinful life without thinking very much about the kind of life he was living.

00:02:48

And this doesn't mean, of course, he was a wild, abandoned Sinner because Paul did leave a lead a rather religious life, all he days, and we could speak much about that.

00:02:56

But let's pass on for the moment.

00:02:59

It's not difficult to look out on the outside world today.

00:03:03

And recognize that the average person out there is very much a willing Sinner.

00:03:09

They have no particular regard for church obligations or I shouldn't better say obligations to God, their eternal Father, but live their life according to the interests of their selfish desires, day by day.

00:03:23

And so it was with the apostle Paul.

00:03:26

But there came a time when his eyes were opened to behold the sacred law of God, commonly called of course, attend commandments.

00:03:38

He came literally as ancient Israel did to the base of Mansai.

00:03:44

And as he gained the knowledge of God's requirements, he found that his own life was in sharp and very unfavourable contrast to what those principles laid out before him.

00:03:59

And very, very real conviction fastened upon his mind.

00:04:03

And before we pass away from the law for the moment, I'd like to have you notice a statement which Paul makes in verse 10.

00:04:11

And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be under death.

00:04:18

Is very important at this stage.

00:04:20

We understand in what sense, Paul says the law was ordained.

00:04:24

To life now.

00:04:28

If we ask the question or first of all, make a statement, the statement being that the broken law of God, which in other words is sin or transgression and righteousness, is a life taker.

00:04:44

The breaking of the commandments kills those who break those commandments.

00:04:50

Now, if the breaking of the law is a life taker, then what is the keeping of the law?

00:04:56

It is a life.

00:04:58

Now, at this point, of course, people always come back and say it's a life giver.

00:05:04

So before I particularly examine the answer given, we ask a third question or another question, and the other question is what is God?

00:05:13

He is the life.

00:05:15

Give up.

00:05:16

Now is we know God is the life given.

00:05:19

There's no question about that, that's a fundamental truth that everybody who has any respect for the Bible whatsoever should recognise that God is the life giver to create or the source of all life and existence in him.

00:05:33

As Paul said in Mars Hill, we live.

00:05:36

And move and have our being.

00:05:40

Now, if God is the life giver, then the law cannot be the life giver.

00:05:44

Even though Paul says it was a damned to life.

00:05:49

And if the broken law is a life taker and God is the life giver, then.

00:05:55

How then serve the law?

00:05:57

It is a life preserver or a life sustainer.

00:06:02

Life must be there first of all, and then the existence of law is provided by God to sustain or preserve that life from being destroyed.

00:06:10

It is in that sense, of course, says the law was ordained to life or to the preservation of life.

00:06:17

Disregarded as wholly requirements and standards, of course becomes a life destroyer and in this role Paul has some very, very wonderful words to say about the law.

00:06:29

When he says in verse 12, wherefore the law is holy and the commandment holy and just and good.

00:06:38

Was then that, which is good night deaf and to me, God forbid.

00:06:43

Now the words, the law itself and.

00:06:44

The life taker.

00:06:45

As the baking of that law or the moving of that law, which becomes the life taker.

00:06:54

Now Paul, now in verse 14 and onward, begins to examine very carefully and closely the natural outworking of these great discoveries in his life experience.

00:07:05

And he came to understand his problem or situation better than he had previously done.

00:07:12

Verse 14, he says.

00:07:13

We know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal sold under sin.

00:07:21

I am carnal, sold under sin.

00:07:26

But in this verse, what is Paul confessing?

00:07:29

What he has done.

00:07:31

Or what he is?

00:07:34

I am, he says.

00:07:36

And those two words of course indicate what he is.

00:07:40

I am Carmel.

00:07:41

Therefore, he was Carmel.

00:07:43

The word Carmel, of course, meaning flesh lying and as we shall see, the moment applies to the presence in him of an indwelling power.

00:07:52

But developed this point quite strongly over the next few moments.

00:07:56

That's basically the last three words of Roman 7, verse 14.

00:08:00

When he says sold under sin, it should not be difficult to recognise that Paul he was drawing on the imagery of slavery was back in his day was a very common practice.

00:08:15

Today, of course, there are still slaves in certain parts of the world, but so far as the Western world is concerned.

00:08:20

And the actual practice of buying and selling humanity to work on on, on a, on a basis of total control has been abolished, but not for long.

00:08:32

Only 100 years and 100 years or less ago in North America, for instance, labour is very prevalent and it remains there until the civil war.

00:08:41

For both this power in the country, there are still slaves, of course, and certain less civilised and less Christian countries.

00:08:49

But it's no longer the practice of.

00:08:50

Was back in Paul's day.

00:08:53

There's Paul stood in the marketplace and watched the players being sold as we sell cattle and sheep today.

00:09:00

He saw there a perfect picture of the conditional situation of a person who is a slave to sin.

00:09:09

His son sold under Sin and would under of course means to pass under since Dominion under Sins Control.

00:09:18

Now, having made this statement, he now supports it.

00:09:22

Thus, and the proof that he was a slave sold under sin is given in the kind of behavior which he now exhibits.

00:09:32

In other words, he's saying the fact.

00:09:34

That I'm a.

00:09:34

Slave is the reason why I do what I am doing.

00:09:40

In other words my \*\*\*\*\*\*\*.

00:09:42

Is the root of my problem.

00:09:44

My actions are the fruit of that root.

00:09:49

May Jesus expressed the same principle back in the loop, the 6th chapter Verses 43 to 45. Let's just go back to this reference a moment.

00:09:57

And then in turn, we'll come back to Roman. So keep your finger in Romans Chapter 7. As we journey back to Luke B 6th chapter as Christ was teaching the people he said in verses 43 to verse 45.

00:10:14

For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit, neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

00:10:24

For every tree as known by his own fruits through thorns, men do not gather things, nor of a Bramble.

00:10:31

Bush gather their grapes.

00:10:34

Now poor.

00:10:34

I mean, Jesus here is making reference to a well known law in the world of nature.

00:10:40

Even children understand this principle.

00:10:45

For this reason, you don't find anybody going out to a thornbush to gather figs, grapes, apples, Peaches, pears, plums, oranges.

00:10:56

You don't go to the Bramble breaks for those same good fruits.

00:10:59

You know perfectly well there's no possibility in the world that that kind of Bush or tree producing good fruit.

00:11:07

The invention to die if such a strange phenomenon should occur, supposing that somewhere in the world they a Bramble Bush was to suddenly produce just one single fig, just one.

00:11:21

And this news was this news.

00:11:23

We split around the world would be on every newscast around the world and thousands upon thousands of botanists.

00:11:29

And since we've flocked to this place to behold this wonder, this amazing thing that a thornbush had produced a single fate.

00:11:37

Is this ever going to happen?

00:11:38

It certainly is not, because the inviolable law of nature says that every tree produces, after its own kind, that that law, which is so fixed and reliable in nature, is equally fixed and reliable.

00:11:51

So far as the human family is concerned, as Jesus goes on to say in.

00:11:55

Verse 45.

00:11:57

A good man.

00:11:59

Out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth up, which is good.

00:12:04

And an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

00:12:16

In other words, just as a good tree brings forth good fruit.

00:12:21

And an evil tree brings forth evil foot, so a good man brings forth evil deeds and an evil man brings forth evil deeds.

00:12:30

In other words.

00:12:31

Before we can do good, we must become good.

00:12:35

It's a very simple but reliable principle in the search for salvation and victory over sin came back now to Romans Chapter 7.

00:12:46

This explains why, first of all, Paul makes a statement telling what, what, what kind of person.

00:12:51

Years and then prove his statement to be true by advancing the evidence of the life which he leads.

00:13:02

So now we'll read these words again in verse 14 when he says I am carnal, sold under sin for that which I do.

00:13:12

I allow not.

00:13:14

For what I would do, but do I not?

00:13:18

But I hate.

00:13:20

What I hate that do I if then I do that which I would not.

00:13:27

I consent unto the law, that it is good.

00:13:31

Now then, there is no more I that dirt, but send the Jonathan me.

00:13:36

So I know that in me that is in my flesh bullet no good thing.

00:13:42

For the will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good?

00:13:47

I find not for the good that I would I do not but the evil which I would not that I do now if I do that, I would not.

00:14:01

It is no more either.

00:14:02

You could send that Jonathan may.

00:14:05

I find then.

00:14:06

A law that when I would do good evil is present with me.

00:14:12

There is a striking difference between the man that Paul was before the law ended, his life experience and the man he was after.

00:14:22

The law ended his life experience.

00:14:26

There is also a remaining similarity.

00:14:30

There's a difference.

00:14:31

And first of all, let's determine the difference.

00:14:37

The difference is that before before the more energy was a willing Sinner.

00:14:44

But what is he now?

00:14:46

An unwilling Sinner, but the similarity is a Sinner still.

00:14:52

In other words, in.

00:14:53

Himself, there has been no change in himself, is still just as much, or was just as much.

00:14:58

The thorn Bush.

00:15:00

Before he read the lore of God as he was after he read the law of God.

00:15:07

There's been no actual change in him because after that, the law of God has said.

00:15:11

He still said I.

00:15:13

Am come to have the reading of the law.

00:15:16

Made any change in him?

00:15:18

No it haven't.

00:15:19

Certainly he's thinking yes, and his desires, yes, but not in his inner nature, because the law, as we said.

00:15:26

But it was not a life giver, and until there was a new life in him, put there by the miracle working power of God, then he certainly could not change his other behaviour and under his circumstances.

00:15:40

And then of course, all the way through.

00:15:42

These verses he.

00:15:43

Reiterates the point.

00:15:45

That's the far as.

00:15:46

His will is concerned he is attuned to the right thing.

00:15:50

But when it comes to performing that which is good, he finds himself a slave to a power greater than his own power.

00:15:59

At this point, is very, very clearly confirmed.

00:16:02

In the closing verses of Romans Chapter 7.

00:16:06

Let's look now at verse 22.

00:16:09

The poor says for I delight in the law of God after the inward man we have two inward men through two different departments, inward leaning person.

00:16:21

One is the spiritual nature and the other is the intellectual nature or the mental nature, and we have to decide.

00:16:29

Of course, which of those two inward men is being referred to in verse 22, where Paul says by the light in the law of God after the inward man.

00:16:40

As a third person involved in their makeup, and that's their physical nature, we have a body which is their physical nature with an intellectual mind, which is the intellectual nature, and we have in ourselves either the seed of Satan, which is the evil spiritual nature, or if we have been born again, the seed of Christ.

00:16:59

Which is the.

00:17:00

Good spiritual nature.

00:17:04

Now if we come back a moment to the earlier verses to get this point quite to implying in verse 15, Paul says for that which I do now what does the doing naturally cause the instrument of the flesh and blood body the members back in Roman 6 and verse 13?

00:17:24

Paul makes reference to these honourable Members in the following words.

00:17:29

Neither you, you, your members as instruments of unrighteousness, and the sin that yield yourselves unto God as those that are like the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

00:17:47

So what is your body?

00:17:49

It is an instrument.

00:17:51

We're not overlooking the fact, of course.

00:17:53

In the body.

00:17:53

There are desires, passions, upper parts reflections, which can have.

00:17:57

A very powerful effect upon the mind, but basically what is our body is an instrument to carry out the desires of the mind that the mind is free, and if it is not, of course it tears out the dictates of the Carmel mine, which of course is the offspring and Satan.

00:18:17

And when Paul says in verse 18 for I.

00:18:21

Know that in me.

00:18:23

That is, in my flesh.

00:18:25

Got it.

00:18:25

No good thing.

00:18:27

What part of him knows this?

00:18:29

The electoral nature, the mental powers thought the will is present with me ought to choose is present with me again.

00:18:38

What part of him is being referred to here?

00:18:41

The mental nature or the intellectual nature?

00:18:46

Let's come down out of this 22 again when he says at the light in the law of God after the inward man now which in the man, the spiritual or the mental, and your answer, very obviously, of course, is the mental.

00:18:59

Or double worst intellectual.

00:19:02

Now this 23 brings to view the relationship between these different warring elements. But he says I see another law in my Members and other law in my members warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity.

00:19:22

To the law of sin, which is in my Members.

00:19:29

I want you to think of the word law in terms of power because after all is said and done, a law is never law unless the power is there.

00:19:39

To enforce it.

00:19:41

For instance, supposing tonight that.

00:19:44

We were to sit down and.

00:19:47

After some debate and discussion, we would have.

00:19:50

Formulate a law.

00:19:52

Which required every man born and child upon the face of this earth to worship God on Wednesday.

00:19:58

And we very strongly wrote this door down.

00:20:01

We very strongly passed it and declared it.

00:20:04

Now, would that law be a law?

00:20:07

Now wouldn't why?

00:20:09

Because we have no power to enforce it, no power whatsoever.

00:20:13

So therefore, when Paul says, I see another law in my Members and this law is so powerful to the wars against the law of his mind and actually brings him into captivity to his laws and his members, then very obviously, of course the law referred to is a very, very definite power which is able to overcome.

00:20:34

The will of the man involved in this little drama.

00:20:39

So then let's now look and see what this power is.

00:20:43

But I see another law or power in my Members now.

00:20:48

Is it then his members or something in the members?

00:20:50

The answer again is very obvious or something in his actual members.

00:20:56

Now this law, of course, is one of the inward powers within the person.

00:21:01

It cannot be the intellectual power because of wars against the law of his mind or against his intellect.

00:21:06

Or against his will.

00:21:08

And it brings them into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my Members, some very clear terms.

00:21:18

Paul then speaks of these three different departments or elements of human or of our of our natures, the physical, the.

00:21:27

Mental and the spiritual, physical, the mental and the spirit.

00:21:32

And because the spiritual is in fact the inward presence of the power of sin, that the mental and the physical are embellished to that power of evil, so it cannot do the thing which he knows you ought.

00:21:46

To do and.

00:21:47

The thing which you very much desires to do.

00:21:50

This thing is the problem which confronts this particular person.

00:21:54

The same verse 24. He then cries out, oh wretched man, that I am who shall deliver me from the body of this death.

00:22:04

I've had the experience of talking to quite a number of religious people around the world from time to time.

00:22:10

Church people professed Christians.

00:22:13

And we have discussed the 7th chapter.

00:22:15

Of the Book of Romans.

00:22:17

And it is the commonly held view on the part of the majority of God's professed children that Roman 7 describes a Christians normal experience.

00:22:31

And for confessed and said Roman, seven is the Privy description of my own personal experience. That's exactly what I'm going through from day-to-day.

00:22:39

I don't want to do these things.

00:22:42

I resolved not to do them, but I find that there's a power in me which I cannot override, and this dictation I do what I don't want to do.

00:22:52

I confess the problem I plead with God to the giveness.

00:22:55

I believe it forgives me and I rise to try again.

00:22:59

But inevitably, after an hour or two a day or two, the old temptations reappear.

00:23:05

And I do that then again, so I find myself sinning and repenting, sinning and repenting, sinning and repenting, and then they say I'm so glad Paul had the same experience, because after all, he was a child of God.

00:23:18

He'll be in heaven.

00:23:19

So he with that experience will be in heaven.

00:23:21

So will I too.

00:23:24

I want now to examine the.

00:23:28

The validity of this argument to see whether, in fact Paul was speaking about his ultimate Christian experience or an intermediate experience between when he was a willing sound and when he finally became a true child of God, keeping God's commandments in the spirit and in truth.

00:23:48

Let's then examine some of the facts in regard to Romans Chapter 7 to see whether this is in reality a true Christian experience.

00:23:56

And this 24.

00:23:59

We find that the apostle cries out in great anguish, respert and great desperation.

00:24:04

As a matter of fact, sheer desperation says Ohh, wretched man, that I am.

00:24:09

Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

00:24:14

In other words, it's asking to be delivered from the experience of Romans Chapter 7.

00:24:18

Very obviously, he must deliverance from this captivity.

00:24:22

Now I ask you a very simple question.

00:24:25

Is a true Christian.

00:24:27

Experiencing a body of death so terrible that he has to cry out to be saved on it.

00:24:33

A true question in.

00:24:34

Other words, does a true question pray to be safe from a Christian experience?

00:24:40

Obviously not.

00:24:43

And yet the facts are that if one and seven is a true Christian experience, then pulled by pain to be saved from the woman 7 experience was pain to be saved from a true Christian experience.

00:24:56

Now, if he is playing to be saved, a true Christian experience, then what was he planning to go into well?

00:25:01

Alternative is left.

00:25:03

Has done his thing.

00:25:05

Because if you're saved out of a true Christian experience and out of the world, the experience, there's no other place to go under any circumstances.

00:25:13

Now turn to 1st John.

00:25:15

That's the pistol down near the Book of Revelation.

00:25:20

First, beloved apostle has some words to say on the 5th chapter and verse 4.

00:25:24

About what it needs to be an overcomer.

00:25:29

First John 5 and verse 4 Paul whatsoever is born of God, Overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our fight.

00:25:43

John said whatsoever is born of God, overcome of the world.

00:25:48

Let's turn this around the other way.

00:25:51

Because is saying in other words, that whoever is being overcome by the world is not born again.

00:25:59

Right.

00:26:01

There's one way or the other.

00:26:02

Either we're overcomers and born again, or we're not overcomers, and we're not born again now.

00:26:09

Is the man of Romans Chapter 7 overcoming or is he being overcome?

00:26:14

The answer is obvious all the way through talks about defeat, defeat, defeat is not won.

00:26:19

Noted victory anywhere in the 7th chapter one and just nowhere whatsoever.

00:26:25

It is a story of captivity, of \*\*\*\*\*\*\* and being forced against his will.

00:26:29

Do that which he knew he ought not to do.

00:26:32

Therefore, he is not overcoming the world.

00:26:35

The world is overcoming him, and if he is not overcoming the world, then he was not born again.

00:26:42

Now, what did Jesus say in the?

00:26:45

3rd chapter of John the the the Gospel of John.

00:26:49

Except the man be born again, he shall not see the Kingdom of God.

00:26:55

Therefore, assume is the man and woman.

00:26:57

Civil is not a born again Christian.

00:26:58

He is not in a safe condition and should he die at any time during his experience in most certainly would not come up in the resurrection.

00:27:10

And of course, many people are rather shocked by this kind of arguments.

00:27:17

Because they have rested in a false secure position for many, many years.

00:27:24

By saying to themselves true, I sin and confess and confess.

00:27:29

I don't have living personal victory over sin, but then who does have this kind of experience around about me?

00:27:36

I am trying my very best.

00:27:39

I am very sincere.

00:27:41

In my determination to serve the God of heaven.

00:27:48

I believe that every time I confess my sin, God Forgives me and sure, I die in the great resurrection.

00:27:53

Morning, he will say I did my best and.

00:27:55

Give me a place in the Kingdom.

00:27:59

Now this is a very, very fatal delusion, which will cost our testing eternal life, and therefore it's quite essential they will be shocked out of our false ideas, our false sense of security, so far as.

00:28:13

The relevance of an experience is concerned.

00:28:16

So we will realise our desperate need and thus be led to reach out and lay hold upon the glorious promises of God.

00:28:24

Who will give to us a living deliverance from sins over ruling power?

00:28:29

Who will break the?

00:28:30

Wicked partners sin, confessing, confessing, confess, and give to us.

00:28:35

On your experience all.

00:28:37

Now now, for instance, when Paul in Roman 7 cried out.

00:28:42

Oh, Richard mended.

00:28:43

I am.

00:28:44

Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

00:28:48

What did he then find?

00:28:49

He found the livers, he said.

00:28:51

I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

00:28:53

He thanked God for deliverance, for freedom and for victory over sin.

00:29:00

We have time just to read the first verse of Chapter 8 which says.

00:29:04

There is therefore now no.

00:29:07

And then most of them with you in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spelt.

00:29:13

To the law of the Spirit of life in Christ, Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

00:29:24

Let's look up thing with hope and courage and confidence, knowing that there is a way out of this vicious circle of sin and confess sin and confess and confess.

00:29:34

God through Jesus Christ will give us the complete and total victory over the sin problem.

00:29:41

We'll leave our presentation here for the night and when we come together again, we'll continue this study until we learn exactly how that victory can begin.

00:29:50

The new life lived altogether.