

SET FREE FROM SIN & LAW BY DEATH

Part 2 – FREE FROM THE LAW BY DEATH

*Last week we saw that **WE DIED TO SIN!***

*We saw that the way Jesus set us free from sin was **by putting to death our ‘Sin Nature’ on The Cross and we died to sin with Jesus on The Cross!***

*Sin wasn't taken away from us ... **we were taken away from sin by dying to it!***

*We also saw that this ‘Old Adamic Man’ that died, was also **buried with Christ** and will never rise again.*

*And that when Christ rose, we rose with Him as a completely New Man in **THE NEWNESS OF LIFE.***

*Paul expounds this all in Romans 6, telling us, **WE DIED TO SIN (v2).***

WE DIED TO THE LAW

BUT DID YOU KNOW, IN ROMANS CHAPTER 7, PAUL GOES ON TO TELL US ... WE ALSO DIED TO THE LAW?

Romans 7:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Likewise, my brothers, **you also have been put to death to the Law through the body of Christ ...***

Died = Aorist / Passive meaning, our death was finalised ... and done to us by an external power.

Once again we must stress, just as sin didn't die on the cross but we died to sin, **the law also didn't die, but ... we died to the law.**

PART A

You say, ‘So why did we have to die to the law?’

**BECAUSE JUST AS PEOPLE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH SIN ...
PEOPLE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE LAW**

Ever since the Fall of Man in The Garden of Eden, Man has had a problem not only with sin, but also God's Law.

THE FIRST LAW WAS IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 2:16-17 NIV **SLIDE**

... The Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

SLIDE ADAM & EVE ENTERED INTO GUILT & CONDEMNATION

Since then God's Broken Law has hung over all Adam's descendants **like a thick cloud of condemnation.**

We are born into condemnation and we inherently feel guilt.

We've had it all our lives and we don't know what life is like without this sense of guilt.

WE FEEL GUILTY IF WE DON'T FEEL GUILTY

THEN IT GOT WORSE

God interpreted those feelings of guilt when He gave the world **the ten commandments and the law of Moses**, which told us why we feel guilty and **showed us how we fail.**

There was no way of escaping our guilt ...

IT IS WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

WE MUST UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS ABOUT THE LAW

SLIDE

- ***THE LAW HAD RECORDED ALL YOUR SIN AGAINST YOU! EVERY TINY INFRACTION HAD BEEN REGISTERED & IT ALL HAD TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR – STRICT & STRINGENT***

That little boy who threw his toy down in frustration is guilty.

The child who wagged school is guilty.

When you didn't return that book you borrowed ... or when you didn't tell the whole truth, you are marked –

GUILTY BEFORE THE LAW.

- ***THE LAW IS UNFORGIVING – WITHOUT A SHRED OF MERCY IT DEMANDS IT'S POUND OF FLESH!***
- ***THE LAW HAD ALREADY PRONOUNCED YOU GUILTY & IT DEMANDED THAT YOU BE PUNISHED FOR ALL YOUR SIN. IT DEMANDED YOU DIE IN EVERY WAY!***

The wages of sin is death. (Romans 6:23)

So you say, 'Couldn't God just override The Law?'

GOD COULDN'T OVERRIDE THE LAW AS IT IS A PART OF HIM

- **THE LAW IS THE EXPRESSION OF GOD'S STANDARD OF HOLINESS & RIGHTEOUSNESS**
God couldn't change the law because He would have to change His own standards of holiness and righteousness. And God would then be impure and unrighteous ...
- **THE LAW DIDN'T CHANGE OR DIE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. THE LAW REMAINS INTACT AND UNCHANGED TO THIS DAY. THE LAW WILL NEVER CHANGE**

Jesus said ...

Matthew 5:18 NLT **SLIDE**

*I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, **not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear** until its purpose is achieved.*

Jesus said ...

Matthew 5:17 NIV **SLIDE**

*Do not think that I have come to **abolish the Law** ... I have not come to abolish ... but to fulfil [satisfy] ...*

SLIDE

- **THE LAW WOULD ONLY BE FULFILLED OR SATISFIED WHEN OUR SENTENCE OF DEATH WAS CARRIED OUT**

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23)

HOW DID JESUS FULFILL OR SATISFY THE LAW FOR US?

SLIDE JESUS WAS BORN UNDER THE LAW AND HE KEPT THE LAW

Galatians 4:4-5

*... God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, **born under the law** ⁵to redeem **those who were under the law** ...*

WE NEEDED REDEEMING FROM THE LAW'S CONDEMNATION

SLIDE

JESUS DIED UNDER THE LAW'S CONDEMNATION IN OUR PLACE.
When Jesus died on our behalf He fulfilled the law's demands.

*He became our substitute and we died positionally with Him.
This was the way God satisfied the law's exacting standards and released us from the sentence imposed.*

*When Jesus died in our place and our old sin-man died with Him
Then ... **OUR SENTENCE WAS SERVED – OUR DEBT WAS PAID.**
THE LAW COUNTED US DEAD ... AND THE LAW WAS SATISFIED.*

SLIDE SO NOW IN CHRIST ...
THE LAW CONSIDERS YOU DEAD ...
THE LAW HAS FINISHED WITH YOU FOREVER!

Romans 7:4 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**
*Likewise, my brothers, **you also have been put to death to the Law through the body of Christ ...***

THE LAW IS ONLY FOR THE LIVING

Romans 7:1 NLT **SLIDE**
*Now, dear brothers and sisters—you who are familiar with the law—don't you know that **the law applies only while a person is living?***

Some time ago, I watched the movie 'The Count of Monte Cristo' based on the story by Alexander Dumas (1844), of a man wrongly sentenced to life-imprisonment.

In it there was a statement that stood out to me when Edmond Dantes was in the prison and his prisoner-friend, 'The old Priest', died in his arms.

SLIDE *He said over the lifeless body, 'Goodbye priest. **Now you are free as I will never be [until I also die]***

THE OLD PRIEST HAD SERVED HIS SENTENCE WHICH WAS TO BE INCARCERATED FOR THE TERM OF HIS NATURAL LIFE.
NOW HIS LIFE HAD ENDED, **THE LAW HAD NO MORE CLAIM OVER HIM ANYMORE ...**
THE LAW WAS SATISFIED & THE LAW WROTE HIM OFF AS, 'DONE!'

More recently I watched a movie called, 'Blade Runner 2', where The Government sent an assassin to hunt and kill a man who

refused to obey its rules. However when this renegade man was drowning, the assassin took pity on him and rescued him.

SLIDE *The rescued man said, 'You should have let me drown.'*
The assassin answered, 'I did! Your freedom is in the fact that you died. Now you are no longer a wanted criminal.'

**HOW IMPORTANT IS OUR DEATH TO THE LAW!
HOW POWERFUL IS OUR DEATH TO THE LAW!
OUR DEATH HAS SET US FREE FROM THE PUNISHMENT OF LAW.**

BUT THIS GOES EVEN FURTHER ...

PART B

YOUR DEATH NOT ONLY SET YOU FREE FROM THE LAW FOR YOUR PAST LIFE, BUT ...

YOUR DEATH ALSO SET YOU FREE FROM THE LAW FOR YOUR LIFE FROM NOW ON.

*'But,' you say, 'I can accept that God set me free from the Law for my past failures, but surely **NOW** I have a responsibility **to try and live the way The Law dictates!** Surely **NOW** I should try and keep the Law's standards!'*

HERE-IN IS THE PROBLEM ...

EVEN THOUGH IN CHRIST WE HAVE DIED TO THE LAW, MOST DON'T KNOW IT!

Romans 7 starts with, 'DO YOU NOT KNOW..?'

SLIDE **MANY CHRISTIANS STILL LIVE UNDER THE LAW AND BRING OTHERS BACK UNDER THE LAW IN IGNORANCE.**

*They now try to live again according to the law.
They criticise this kind of grace-teaching, calling it antinomianism – giving people a license to sin.*

THEY BELIEVE IF YOU TAKE THE WRITTEN LAW AWAY FROM PEOPLE THEN YOU ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LAWLESSNESS, Not understanding the Newness of Life we now have.

PAUL CALLED THIS, 'FALLING FROM GRACE' & RAILED AGAINST THIS TO THE GALATIANS.

Galatians 5:4 NLT **SLIDE**

*For if you are [still] trying to make yourselves right with God **by keeping the law**, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.*

LOOK AT WHAT THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES ...

Romans 7:6 NLT **SLIDE**

*But **now** we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are **no longer** captive to its power. **Now** we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the **new way of living in the Spirit**.*

NB: 'NOW'. Paul tells us our life **NOW** is NOT to be lived trying to obey The Law ...

IN CHRIST, YOU HAVE DIED TO THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.
THE LAW OF COMMANDMENTS HAS WIPED ITS HANDS OF YOU.
THE LAW WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE.

Romans 10:4 BSB **SLIDE**

*For **Christ [Himself]** is the end of the law, to bring righteousness to everyone who believes.*

Luke 16:16 NKJV **SLIDE**

*The law and the prophets were until John. **Since that time** the kingdom of God has been preached and everyone is pressing into it (rushing into it).*

YOU ASK, 'SO NOW WE CAN LIVE IN LAWLESSNESS?'

NO. We now live out of our New Life in **the New Way**

THERE IS A NEW WAY OF LIVING FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVER

Look again at Romans 7:6

Romans 7:6 NLT **SLIDE**

*But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. **Now we can serve God**, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but **in the new way of living in the Spirit**.*

WHAT DOES THIS NEW WAY OF LIVING LOOK LIKE?

**IT IS GUILT FREE LIVING.
WE NOW LIVE UNDER GRACE NOT LAW**

Romans 6:14 NLT **SLIDE**

*Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, **you live under the freedom of God's grace.***

Last week I showed a slide of being dead to 'the sin-riddled realm' and becoming alive in 'the sin-free realm'.

This is also true about The law

SLIDE YOU DIED TO THE LAW IN A LAW DOMINATED REALM.
YOU HAVE RISEN A NEW PERSON IN A GRACE REALM.

A PERFECT LIFE DOESN'T NEED THE LAW ...

Here in Australia it appears overnight we have had a change of government ... new leaders with new laws ...

So with the New Testament we had a change of leadership.

We are now ...

**NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW OF CONDEMNATION
BUT NOW UNDER HIS GRACE OF FREEDOM**