SOME PRELIMINARY WORK

Romans 7 is one of the densest, most challenging chapters in Scripture. It begins with an illustration: A woman is bound by law to her husband till “death do us part.” If she lives with another man while she is married, she is an adulterous. But if her husband dies, she is legally free to remarry (7:1–3). Paul’s point is that Christians died to “the law of sin” so they could marry Christ. Being wedded to sin was an extremely enslaving, negative experience; being wedded to Christ is liberating and positive in every way (7:4–6).

There are some who misunderstand Paul’s illustration as follows: The law of God was an abusive husband, enslaving believers during the Sinai/old covenant era. When Christ came in history, that law died, setting believers free from the law to be married to Christ. Believers in the new-covenant era who keep the Sabbath, an old-covenant institution, just because the Ten Commandments say so, are committing spiritual adultery! They cannot be married to Christ and the law.

This week will have us taking a closer look at Romans 7. Read it several times, noting and charting the contrasts in their proper context. Reach a conclusion that provides the greatest “explanatory power” with the “least academic burden.” Buckle up for an intense, hopefully insightful and rewarding study of this week’s lesson!
Write out Romans 7:1–8:4 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Romans 7:1–7; 8:1–4. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or “chart” out the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in Romans 7:1–8:4. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Study the contrasts between the old and new covenant experiences as presented in Romans 7:1–6.

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**Died to the Law—Married to Christ: Romans 7:1–6**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Covenant</th>
<th>New Covenant</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>(a)</em> Not “married” to “Christ” (v. 4)</td>
<td><em>(b)</em> “Married…to…Christ” (v. 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(b–c)</em> Lived “in the flesh,” serve in “the oldness of the letter” (vv. 5, 6)</td>
<td><em>(b–c)</em> Live and “serve in the newness of the Spirit” (v. 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(d)</em> Bore “fruit to death” (v. 5)</td>
<td><em>(d)</em> Bore “fruit to God” (v. 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>(e)</em> “Held” captive “by…the law” that “aroused…sinful passions” in us (vv. 5, 6)</td>
<td><em>(d)</em> “Have become dead to the law” (vv. 4, 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov09-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Considering Romans 7:1–6 in the context of Romans 6–8, are you seeing the contrast of two experiences? Which experience describes yours?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov09-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Romans 8:5–11
Romans 6:2, 6, 7, 11
Ephesians 4:22
Colossians 3:3–10
1 Thessalonians 5:23, 24
1 Peter 1:4, 5

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Romans 7:1–8:4?

Review your memorized verse from Romans 7:1–8:2.
Where do you see Jesus in Romans 7:1–8:4?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How does “struggle” play a role in your spiritual experience?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov09-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, where are the struggles in your inner spiritual life?

Where are the struggles in your external spiritual life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov09-7
Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How has this quarter’s lesson helped your understanding of the covenants so far?

What law are we to die to?

How is struggling a sign of spiritual life?

When does the struggle end?

Where is the rest experienced in the struggle?

How have you experienced rest in the midst of spiritual struggle?

What is the role of Sabbath rest in the sanctification process?

Despite the difficult passages, what is the theme that has been repeated from Lesson 6 to now?