



The SALVATION Series

Part 9 – Jekyll & Hyde



Introduction...

- The triplet chapters 6,7 & 8 tackle a core important issue in the life of the Christian: How to deal with and overcome sin.
- Romans 7 is a deep chapter where Paul explains the relationship between the **Law, sin, and believers**.
- He describes the struggle of trying to obey the Law while still battling sin and shows that true freedom comes through Jesus Christ.
- It not very easy to read, so we will tackle this in reflective aliquots.



Wed-Lock...

- *You shouldn't have any trouble understanding this, friends, for you know all the ins and outs of the law—how it works and how its power touches only the living.*
- *For instance, a wife is legally tied to her husband while he lives, but if he dies, she's free.*
- *If she lives with another man while her husband is living, she's obviously an adulteress.*
- *But if he dies, she is quite free to marry another man in good conscience, with no one's disapproval.*
- Reading from the Message Bible vs1-3



Loosed...!

- *4-6 So, my friends, this is something like what has taken place with you. When Christ died he took that entire rule-dominated way of life down with him and left it in the tomb, leaving you free to “marry” a resurrection life and bear “offspring” of faith for God.*
 - *For as long as we lived that old way of life, doing whatever we felt we could get away with, sin was calling most of the shots as the old law code hemmed us in. And this made us all the more rebellious.*
 - *In the end, all we had to show for it was miscarriages and stillbirths. But now that we’re no longer shackled to that domineering mate of sin, and out from under all those oppressive regulations and fine print, we’re free to live a new life in the freedom of God.*
- Romans 7:4-6 Message



Reflection...

- Paul uses something the Jewish Christians in Rome would understand – the law of marriage.
- This simple but profound allegory helps to illustrate what spiritually happens when a person becomes a Believer in Jesus.
- In today's world, it is like a bad credit score due to CCJs and bad credit markings against one's name.
- Once the affected party serves the time and the negative entries are removed from the financial records, the individual is free to apply for good credit and have better financial liberty.
- Freedom in Christ is like having a large debt paid off or bad credit sponged from the records. Sin is deleted and disempowered!!



Help!

- *7 But I can hear you say, “If the law code was as bad as all that, it’s no better than sin itself.” That’s certainly not true.*
- *The law code had a perfectly legitimate function. Without its clear guidelines for right and wrong, moral behavior would be mostly guesswork.*
- *Apart from the succinct, surgical command, “You shall not covet,” I could have dressed covetousness up to look like a virtue and ruined my life with it.*
- *Don’t you remember how it was? I do, perfectly well. The law code started out as an excellent piece of work.*
- *What happened, though, was that sin found a way to pervert the command into a temptation, making a piece of “forbidden fruit” out of it.*



Help Me!

- *The law code, instead of being used to guide me, was used to seduce me. Without all the paraphernalia of the law code, sin looked pretty dull and lifeless, and I went along without paying much attention to it.*
- *But once sin got its hands on the law code and decked itself out in all that finery, I was fooled, and fell for it.*
- *The very command that was supposed to guide me into life was cleverly used to trip me up, throwing me headlong.*
- *So sin was plenty alive, and I was stone dead. But the law code itself is God's good and common sense, each command sane and holy counsel.*



Reflection...

- We are born into the matrix of sin and sinning.
- Nobody needs to teach a little child how to lie or manipulate.
- As little kids we were not fully aware of sin. However as we grow up sin gets a full grip on our hearts and we are helpless
- The moral code in every society just helps to heighten our awareness of our sinfulness and depravity.



Help...!

- *¹³ I can already hear your next question: “Does that mean I can’t even trust what is good [that is, the law]?”*
- *Is good just as dangerous as evil?” No again! Sin simply did what sin is so famous for doing: using the good as a cover to tempt me to do what would finally destroy me.*
- *By hiding within God’s good commandment, sin did far more mischief than it could ever have accomplished on its own.*

Romans 7:13



Ugh!

- 14-16 I can anticipate the response that is coming:
- “I know that all God’s commands are spiritual, but I’m not. Isn’t this also your experience?”
- Yes. I’m full of myself—after all, I’ve spent a long time in sin’s prison.
- What I don’t understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.
- So if I can’t be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God’s command is necessary.
Romans 7:14-16





Not Again!!

- 17-20 But I need something *more!*
- For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help!
- I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't *do* it. I decide to do good, but I don't *really* do it;
- I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions.
- Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time.

Useless!!

- ²¹⁻²³ It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up.
- I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight.
- Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.
- ²⁴ I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me?
- Isn't that the real question?



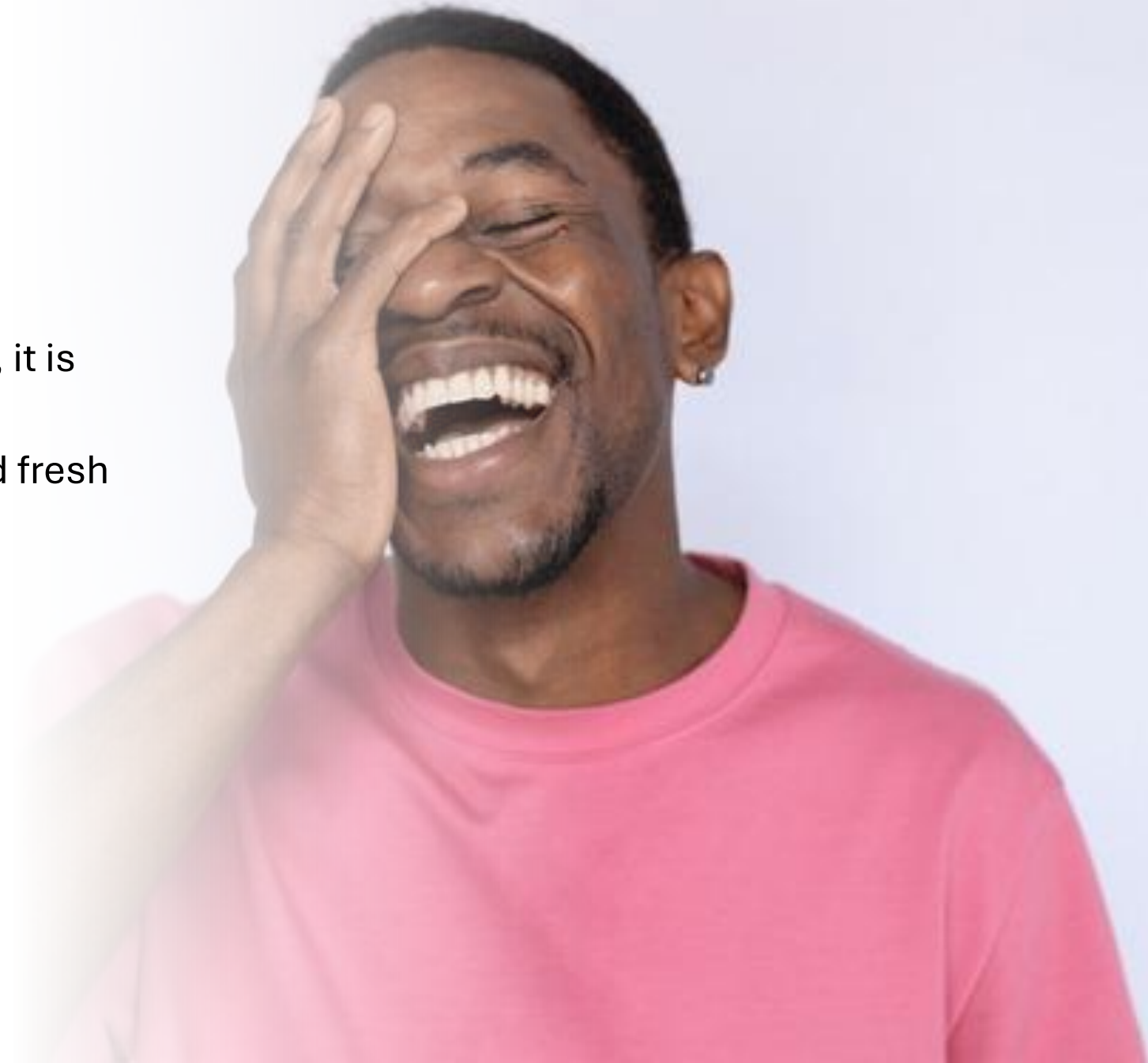
YES!!

- Isn't that the real question?
- ²⁵The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.
- He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind,
- but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.



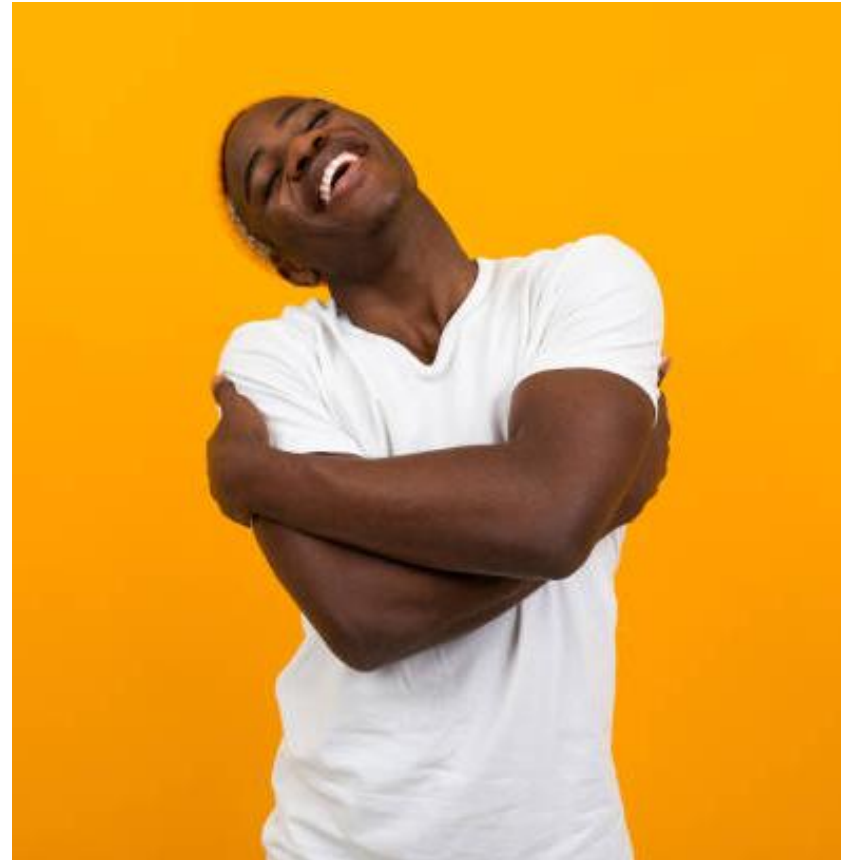
WOW!!

- When sin is overthrown, it is pure JOY!!
- Your soul feels clean and fresh
- You feel liberated
- Nothing like it!!



Thank You JESUS!!

- Romans 7 is a reflection that can apply to a non believer or a Christian.
- In this study, we are reflecting on this chapter as Christians.
- We need to reflect to allow the light of the WORD shine thoroughly into our hearts.
- As we reflect on our weaknesses, it brings us to a place of surrender to God's finished work at the Cross.
- We see ourselves for what we are and it helps bring true and deep repentance that strengthens God's transformation work in our hearts and lives.
- ALL OF US need to reflect regularly on Romans 7. Not to subject us to condemnation but to FREEDOM!



FAMILY TIME

- Talk about saying SORRY to siblings, parents, children and friends.
- Sit on how to say SORRY very well and not skip over it.
- Talk about times we have said sorry and how it made the other person feel.
- Talk with older Children about the concept of true repentance and what that looks like.



#EveryHomeAChurch...

- Remember to take time out with family this week.
- Create a time to Pray and Play
- Set regular weekly times and days to be together

