

Gaining A Greater Grasp on The Gospel of Grace

A Series of Studies From Romans

Avoiding the Extremes Of Legalism & License: Accepting the Essential Assistance of God's Spirit

—Romans 7:1—8:9

—“God searches the heart and understands every motive. To be acceptable to Him, our motives must spring from a love for Him and a desire to glorify Him. Obedience to God performed from a legalistic motive—that is a fear of the consequences or to gain favor with God—is not pleasing to God.” —Jerry Bridges

—“God's purpose in redeeming people from sin is not to give them freedom to do as they please but freedom to do as He pleases, which is to live holy and righteous lives to honor Him.”

—various Bible teachers

The FOCUS found in Today's Study

A FUNDAMENTAL REALITY ABOUT OUR BATTLE WITH SIN:

When we _____, God _____ us to
be _____ & He began the _____ of
_____. This is a _____ effort between us & God!
In this life, we will _____ with sin, but we
can find help by living under the _____ of God's Spirit!

—“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the life-giving Spirit in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For God achieved what the law could not do because it was weakened through the flesh. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous requirement of the law may be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

—Romans 8:1–4

—A SUMMARY EXPLANATION of the context of our study:

—“In chapters 1, 2, & 3 (of Romans), the whole world was shown to be condemned and lost in sin. In chapters 3, 4, & 5, condemned sinners were seen as justified and declared righteous, if they've believed (trusted) in Jesus Christ. Then in chapters 6 & 7, the method of sanctification (developing a holy lifestyle) was explained. Now then, the end of chapter 7 completed the treatment of justification and sanctification. But there remains just one more question that can arise: **'Will this divine method of justification and sanctification last?'** The eighth chapter of Romans was written to answer that question and the whole burden of the chapter is this: **'If you are in Christ Jesus, you're safe!'** Justification and sanctification in Christ will endure!”

—from *Romans—The Gospel of God's Grace* by Alva J. McClain

—Four Related Truths From Romans 1–6 That Introduce Today's Study:

—1} Because God created this world, He has absolute authority over us & everyone is accountable to Him!

—Based on His grace & our trust in Christ:

—2} we've been rescued from the _____ for sin;

—3} we're being rescued from the _____ of sin;

—4} we'll be rescued from the _____ of sin!

—A PRACTICAL ANALYSIS of Romans 7:

—1— Everyone who has a _____ with Christ has been _____ from the _____ of God's Law!
{Romans 7:1–6}

—In Christ we're now under the authority of God's indwelling Spirit!

—God's Spirit **PROVIDES** newness of life!

—The FRUIT of God's Spirit is being **PRODUCED** in our lives!

—2— Even though we're released from the requirements of the Law, it still has an _____ over our lives! {Romans 7:7–13}

—God's Law _____ from _____

—God's Law helps us _____ the _____ & _____ of sin. {see Romans 7:13}

—3— Even though we're justified & being sanctified, we will all be _____ by _____ & we'll _____ with _____ between our _____ & our _____! {Romans 7:14–25}

—“I'm of flesh.” =

—“I'm doing the very thing I hate!” =

—“The Law is good.” =

—“No longer am I the one doing it, but the sin that dwells in me.”

—“Nothing good dwells in my flesh” =

—“A war is being waged between my mind & the sin within me.”

—“Wretched man that I am!” =

—“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

—A PERSONAL APPLICATION (from Romans 8:1–8)—

—There are only two types of people in the world:

1) Those who are _____ by having entrusted themselves to Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior —and—

2) Those who are _____ by birth!

—Everyone who's **in the flesh** faces _____!

—All who are in Christ will never face _____ against sin!

—LIFE LESSONS TO PUT INTO PRACTICE—

—1} **1 John 1:5–10**

—Am I more aware of the sins of others than I am of my own sins?

—How often do I/we tend to laugh or joke about sin? Do we shrug off any concern about sin, or fail to take it seriously?

—**To avoid being drawn into sin,**

—2} **Sin is powerful ... & persuasive.**

Persuasive =

Routine =

—3} **Legalism deceives us =**

License fools us into thinking God is

We're free from the Law because Christ fulfilled it for us.

We're now free to do what we're told to do!

We don't have to fulfill it, but we're obligated to follow it.

—4} **How God sees us thru Christ = Justified & Sanctified!**

—**Am I living a life that MATCHES what God says I AM?**