

## The Book of Romans

### The Gospel of God

<sup>31</sup>“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,  
<sup>32</sup>not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

<sup>34</sup>They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

(Jeremiah 31:31-34)

### What about the Law?

- the purpose of the Law was to imprison humanity under sin as a stage in God’s redemptive plan (cf. Rom. 3:20; 4:15; 5:20)
- freedom from sin’s rule has its basis in freedom from the Law (cf. Rom. 6:14)

### Romans 7:1-25

#### ➤ Two Main Points about the Law:

1. Bondage to the Law must be severed in order to be put into a new relationship with Christ (7:1-6)
2. The Law is from God and is holy, but is the tool of sin to imprison in death (7:7-25)

Or do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law), that the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives?

<sup>2</sup>For the married woman is bound by law to her husband while he is living; but if her husband dies, she is released from the law concerning the husband.

<sup>3</sup>So then, if while her husband is living she is joined to another man, she shall be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from the law, so that she is not an adulteress though she is joined to another man.

<sup>4</sup>Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

<sup>5</sup>For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were *aroused* by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

<sup>6</sup>But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.

(Romans 7:1-6)

## Freed from the Law

1. Principle
  - death severs relationship to the Law
2. Application
  - through the death of Christ, we have been released from the Law in order to be joined to the risen Christ that we might bear fruit for God
3. Explanation (vs. 5-6)

## Freed from the Law

1. Who we were (under the Law)
  - “in the flesh” – controlled by merely human, worldly desires and values; a power of the old age, set in opposition to the Spirit (cf. Rom. 8:9)
  - in our “natural” condition the Law only served to produce (“arouse”) sinful passions
  - our sinful passions were constantly working in us to bear fruit for death

## Freed from the Law

2. Who we are now (free from the Law)
  - we have been released from the binding authority of the Law as a whole
  - we now serve in the nature and power of the new age determined by the Spirit, not in the old age determined by the Law (“letter”)

<sup>6</sup> who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

<sup>7</sup> But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones...

(2 Corinthians 3:6-7)

## ➤ New Covenant vs. Old Covenant

- the Old Covenant (i.e., the Law) was an external, written code that could not impart the obedience and life it demanded
- in the New Covenant, God, by the Spirit, writes his “law” upon the heart and gives life – no written code!

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

(Galatians 5:22-23)