



Lesson 6

“License and Legalism”

Romans 7

Something in human nature makes us want to go to extremes, a weakness from which Christians are not wholly free. “Since we are saved by grace,” some argue, “we are free to live as we please,” which is the extreme of *license*.

“But we cannot ignore God’s Law,” others argue. “We are saved by grace, to be sure; but we must live under Law if we are to please God.” This is the extreme expression of *legalism*.

Paul answered the first group in Romans 6; the second group he answered in Romans 7. The word *law* is used twenty-three times in this chapter. In Romans 6, Paul told us how to stop doing bad things; in Romans 7 he told how *not* to do good things. “You were not justified by keeping the Law,” he argued, “and you cannot be sanctified by keeping the Law.”

Every growing Christian understands the experience of Romans 6 and 7. Once we learn how to “know, reckon, and yield,” we start getting victory over the habits of the flesh, and we feel we are becoming more spiritual. We set high standards and ideals for ourselves and for a while seem to attain them. *Then everything collapses!* We start to see deeper into our own hearts and we discover sins that we did not know were there. God’s holy Law takes on a new power, and we wonder if we can ever do anything good! Without realizing it, we have moved into “legalism” and have learned the truth about sin, the Law, and ourselves.

The Authority of the Law 7:1-6

1. We died to the _____. 7:4-5
2. We are delivered from the _____. 7:6

The Ministry of the Law 7:7-13

1. The Law reveals _____. 7:7
2. The Law _____ sin. 7:8-9
3. The Law _____. 7:10-11
4. The Law shows the _____ of sin. 7:12-13

The Inability of the Law 7:14-25

1. The Law cannot _____ you. 7:14
2. The Law cannot enable you to do _____. 7:15-21
3. The Law cannot set you _____. 7:21-25