



Devotional Study Guide Journal

February 1st

A Law is Lurking

Romans 8:1-4

Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

What we need to understand about Romans 8 is that in the previous chapters, Paul makes a strong case that Christians are not under the law, but under grace. Here are some examples.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under the Law but under grace.

Romans 7:6

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.

The "oldness of the letter" was not, as we previously believed, some lifeless boring sermon. The letter refers to the Law of Moses. We do not serve God by keeping laws, not the law of Moses and not the perceive laws of Christianity which have been accumulating for over 2,000 years. We serve in newness of life. Then we read Romans 8. Read the above verse again with the understanding that we are free from the condemnation **of the law**.

The law of sin and death is referring to the Mosaic law. Jesus set us free from it. It was weak. It could not set us free from sin. So God set

us free through the offering of His Son. Jesus fulfilled the Law through His perfect sacrifice for sin on the cross.

Sometimes we as believers we find ourselves powerless to overcome an area in our life where we know we should be successful. Or we just live daily with this sense of condemnation and/or guilt that we can't even figure out what is causing it. We feel inadequate or unaccomplished or mediocre. We find ourselves in the woeful condition Paul writes about in Romans 7—unable to do what we want to do and incapable of not doing some undesirable behavior.

What we have learned is that this is not normal Christianity. Paul wrote that he was free once without the law but when the commandment came, sin revived and he died (Rom. 7:8-9). Whenever we go from living by grace through faith, and go back to “living” by keeping religious laws, we die. It doesn't mean we aren't Christians, but rather that we have become estranged from the power that we have been given in Christ by trying to become righteous by following laws (Gal. 5:4).

The next time you feel guilty, and you know you haven't offended someone to whom you should apologize or committed sin you need to forsake, or you just feel bad about yourself, ask this question: What law is lurking in my life? What religious expectation is condemning me? Reject the condemnation and return again to justification by faith in Jesus.

- ❖ How is it that we are free from the condemnation of the law?

- ❖ Write a summary of what is written above. Or if you aren't good with summarizing, copy and paste this lesson into an A.I. search and ask it to summarize it for you.

