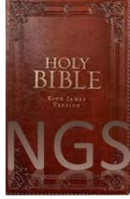


ROMANS RAMBLINGS



Law of sin

We will return to a statement made in last weeks study “obedience is life and disobedience is death.” Some say that the law of sin goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam relayed the message to his wife. Within the message was a rule. Eat of that tree and you will die. To this point, nobody on earth had died. It’s conceivable that no animal with blood had ever been slaughtered. This is distinctly an assumption because Genesis 1-2 talk about eating of fruit, tilling the ground, and naming animals. No mention of meat eating or killing animals is found. To go further they were naked and did not need fur clothes at this time.

It’s a shame really. Who wants to know what evil is? That means probably someone was robbed, killed, raped, or who knows what. I suspect the knowledge of evil creates the knowledge of goodness. If being good is the norm then evil should not exist. We just treat people right and go about our day happy and friendly. The perfect utopia. If the knowledge of evil is introduced then all of a sudden pride, jealousy, and hatred might become mixed within goodness. How do you know what is good? I believe it’s in two ways. The first is God. He is love in its purest form. To know God is to be touched by love. The second is evil. To see what is clearly not good reveals a line. Good is here and not so good is there. The absence of goodness is a shame. it’s ruined this world.

Romans 7:5 *“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.”*

The basic Law of Sin is also found in two ways. One: is that we were the children of sin. We are the seed of Adam and Eve, the first sinners. The DNA of the knowledge of good and evil was passed

down to us one generation at a time. The second part of the Law of Sin is payment. From the very beginning sin had a price. For Adam it was banishment from God's kingdom. That he had to fend for himself in absence of God. For Eve it represented pain and subjection to man. Throughout our whole human history women have been subjected to the evils of man. Men have had to content with the strife of making it on our own. Sin has had a heavy price to pay.

Here is why Paul talks about sin and the law. Romans 7:23 *"but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members."* The DNA that we all carry wages a war against the goodness of God. The love of God wants to be with us. It wants us to desire Him. Yet, the Law of Sin says we (by nature) will reject God. The Christian will always be waging this war.

Romans 6:17-18 *"But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."*

Remember I said last study that five laws in Romans go against the Law of God. God is love. God is goodness. The Law of Sin contradicts that. The Law of Moses exposes sin and evil in our lives. Paul furthers this notion by saying that the Law of Sin is a war between good and evil. This Law of Sin wages a war against God's law. The Law of Sin wants you to covet. It wants you to be jealous, and to have secret desires for another person's spouse. There is nothing the Law of Sin won't fight for that is contrary to God's love. Look at 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 below.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

The Law of Sin is everything love is not. Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Sin will have payment. There will be death as God said to Adam all those years ago. As Paul wrote Romans, he still accepted this law. It’s interesting that the Law of Sin requires opposites. Sin requires payment to atone for disobeying God. Secondly, sin requires that you do the opposite of Gods character and nature. Yet, as Paul states in the second half of Romans 6:23 there is another nature or law that will war against sin. It’s called believing in Jesus the Christ. He will give you a gift for believing in Him. That gift is Gods Holy Spirit. The Spirit will search God and use the power of God to fight your sin. Yes, it will fight your sin nature. Galatians 5:16-18 says *“So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”*

In a nut shell you have a way out. The Law of Sin has a nature that wants to win. Its why God asked Adam not to gain the knowledge of evil. It’s addictive and devastating to humans. However, God has made a way through Jesus to fight sin. Through the Holy Spirit you can fight the sin war. By believing in Jesus, you will beat death. The payment of sin was paid in blood by Jesus’ death on the cross for all. Secondly, you can beat the sin nature by following Jesus and his ways. The Spirit will help you. Interestingly enough, God seals the Spirit within you to battle a sin nature within you. Two natures at war inside you. The sin law is powerful. It has reigned to some degree since time began. Yet, the plan of God is to beat sin and bring us back into his kingdom. Back to being under the Law of God. That is why John wrote:

3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

14:6 *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.”*