

Epistle to the Romans chapter 7

The bad news, followed by ch. 8 ie. the good news Or: how do we reach to defeat

1. The Law

- a. What value is the Law, given that Christ has fulfilled it. Was it all just a waste of time?
- b. Antinomianism: there is no law, anything goes
- c. Paul: the authority of law and the example of marriage
 1. Roman Law recognized marriage, defined it in a number of ways, and most were negotiated. Manum vs. Sine Manum
 11. Three kinds of ceremonies: 2 years together, patrician and plebian
 - m. This contract is legitimate, needed in a society, it is absolutely binding and is understood to be good. But death dissolves a marriage either civil or religious
- d. Our old self was "married" to the Law, but a Death has freed us to the life of Grace
 1. We notice the principle of identification with Christ being more than merely symbolic
-we are tied to Him

2 The path of Recovering sinners

v. 13: sin is its own penalty. It might feel great at the time, but afterwards there will today or tomorrow cause us pain

v. 14-23 The tendency to sin: How many times in life have you said, "why did I do say that?" It is so easy to do the wrong thing, I do not want to sin but I keep doing it. In confession people often display great guilt saying things to the effect of, "I want to break this bad habit but I cannot" But this is entirely correct- YOU cannot break the power of sin - I can postpone doing it but I cannot escape it. Proverb:" don't try to fool the devil by speaking Latin, he knows it better than you do

*wrong approach: try harder, pray this way" this is pious humbug, and salvation by works "I see in my members another law at work in me."

*this inability to deal with sin by myself is not a license to commit

sin, as if to say, I'm not a sinner I had no choice. Recall Adam, & Eve in the garden: "She gave it to me." Whenever I try, or one tries to exonerate themselves 98% of the time it is a facile lie to evade responsibility. Likewise: it is because of my culture I had no choice, it is because of my people's suffering, it is because of economics. No the refusal to take responsibility for personal or corporate sin takes away the possibility of repentance and healing (story of Sarah and anti-English sentiment) Likewise the Pilgrim anger at t

The condemnation: v. 25: we are traitors by having two masters. See ch. 8 for the good news the King's Church

Bottom line: sin is not merely a bad habit, it is an infection in our bodies