

*Romans #089*

**“Freed from the Law”**

*Romans 6:14-17*

*“Why do we strive for a false perception of perfection when an honest perception of imperfection is who we really are?”*

*“Sin comes when we take a perfectly natural desire or longing or ambition and try desperately to fulfill it without God.*

*Not only is it sin, it is a perverse distortion of the image of the Creator in us. All these good things and all our security, are rightly found only and completely in Him.”*

*Augustine, The Confessions of Saint Augustine*

**The challenge of the Christian life is experiencing the reality we receive at salvation.**

**We now have the freedom not to sin, not the freedom to sin.**

*We are now slaves to righteousness but free to obey the master we choose, sin or righteousness.*

**Being under grace removes the restrictions of the law and gives us a freedom that Old Testament believers didn't have.**

**In retroactive positional truth; identification with Jesus Christ's death, everything we were in Adam before salvation was crucified with Christ and dead and that's the key to experiential victory.**

**Something completely changed; before salvation, we were slaves to our sin natures and after salvation, that slavery is broken so we are freed from sin's penalty and potentially freed from sin's power, therefore freed not to sin.**

**The Law wasn't given to Israel so that they would have a way to get to Heaven but to expose the fact that sin is in every part of our lives and we can't save ourselves.**

**Paul has a way of building his reader up with God's gracious provision before he adds God's expectation.**

**In light of what God has given us, there are things we have to do in order to use the assets and maximize them, turning them from potential to things that are actually in our lives.**

*From salvation to spiritual maturity, we're under the support of living grace and positional truth; because positionally, the power of the sin nature is destroyed.*

**In seeking to continue mastery over the believer after its power is broken, the sin nature distorts the Mosaic law into a system of human good which becomes legalism and evil.**

**It's the tendency of rebellion to distort the law into a system of works and good which produces an evil called religion.**

*Religion is the devil's pride and joy and religion and legalism distort the Mosaic law into a system of good deeds to gain the blessing of God.*

**Being under the authority of grace means using grace not works, for victory over the power of the sin nature.**

**While the Mosaic law has a definite purpose, it does not include either salvation or victory over the sin nature.**

**To the legalist, grace is a license to sin and to the lawless, grace always is an excuse for sin.**

Neither legalism nor lawlessness can break away from the ruling power of the sin nature because both are distortions.

*Only God's provision of living grace support can exploit our positional victory over the sin nature.*

**Maximum indoctrination results in grace increase because grace is related to our intake of the Word, not our failures or disasters.**

God's integrity does not depend on man's sinfulness, the production of human good or the function of evil.

*Being under the authority of grace means relying on grace or using grace provision for victory over the sin nature.*

**The basic concept of life is that we must understand authority in life and the extent to which we buck authority is the extent to which life destroys us.**

The Roman Empire became a system of authority set up by Caesar and believers not only lived under this system but they thrived under it.

*Royalty always has privileges which also means that there's no excuse for any believer not reaching maturity.*

The purpose of slavery is obedience at someone else's disposal but the greatest happiness in life is being at God's disposal because it's the source of blessing and refreshment in life.

**Believers who continue under the rule and authority of the sin nature after their positional deliverance at salvation are under a category beyond carnality; rebellion.**

Rebellion is apostasy; the place of total failure for the believer due to rejection of biblical truth. *Rebellion is controlled by the sin nature with its trends toward sin, human good and evil.*

To be dominated by the sin nature after salvation means the justice of God must discipline rather than bless.

**While the positional end to sin nature dominance is at salvation; the experiential end, maybe never.**

Believers, when unbelievers, produced this action and sometimes believers after salvation, do also.

*Before salvation, all of us were married to our sin natures, under their lordship as the rulers and dictators in life.*

If we are married to Jesus Christ and divorced from the sin nature; that immediately becomes the basis for everything we do in life.