

THE PROBLEM WITH LAW

Romans 7:7-25

Romper Room–1953-94 “Do Bee” Song

“I always do what’s right I never do anything wrong.

I’m a Romper Room Do Bee A Do Bee all day long!”

“Do Bee good boys & girls...”

So, how’s it going, all you “Do Bees” out there?

Cancer Studies. It used to be people didn’t discover cancer until too late. Then came the MRI; gives image doc-tors examine to identify tumors before we note symptoms. If MRI identifies cancer, do we blame the machine?

Paul: “I didn’t know I was dying from sin, until law revealed terminal disease. Law points out problem. That’s GOOD!

Swindoll: “Law is God’s diagnostic tool to expose sin & confront us with prognosis. The disease is deadly if not treated. Does Law cause death? No more than an MRI causes cancer!

When Paul announces we’re not under law, we’re under grace, we get idea law’s bad.

That’s 3rd obj. to salvation by faith

Obj. concerning law 7:7-25

If salvation’s by faith alone... If law can’t save us;
it only reveals sin & condemns us.

Doesn’t that make law a bad thing? 7:7a

“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin?”

Response:

7:7b-25

He again responds neg.: **No Way! “Certainly not!”**

Law is good at accomplishing its purpose. 7:7b “I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For

I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

1 Tim 1:8: Law is good, IF you use it properly (=> lawfully; according to purpose of laws).

⁹"The law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers & rebels, the ungodly & sinful, the unholy & irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers..."

Law wasn't given for benefit of people who are just. It wasn't given to save the righteous;

Law was given to reveal sin.

LAW REVEALS SIN 7:7b-13 *"I wouldn't have known what sin was except through the law. For I wouldn't have known what coveting really was if the law hadn't said, "Do not covet." ⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life & I died. ¹⁰I found that the very command-ment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, & through the commandment put me to death. ¹²So then, the law is holy, & the command-ment is holy, righteous & good. ¹³Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the command-ment sin might become utterly sinful."*

Law's given to demonstrate our sinfulness.

People's disobedient nature is just as rotten without law

But no one's a *law breaker*, until someone writes laws.

So if you take away all laws, everything would be fine.

Wouldn't that make world a *wonderful* place?!! **NOT!**

If God never said: "*Don't fix your eye on your neighbor's things!*"

I wouldn't **know** I have problem!

But problem would still be real!

Law is incapable of taking away sin.

Law reveals it; –but can't remove it!

Law proves we're all sinful!

History's filled with reminders we'd rather forget;

Without law, there's no standard to measure our rebellious attitude.

Law shows that we always want to do what we're told not to.

Benches: "Wet Paint. Do not touch!" What do people do?

God gave commands to show His character

God's people ought to reflect His character.

Thus the law is holy, just and good.

What God gave to show us path became a problem.

It condemns us; it proves we're all sinners!

Law's like plumb line. When builder checks wall, plumb line shows if it's true. If you find problem, it can't fix it

You need hammer & saw.

Law fulfills purpose for which God made it;

—shows how far off mark we are; can't change our life.

Law lacks power 7:14-24 “We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵I don't understand what I do. For what I want to do I don't do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶& if I do what I don't want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it's sin living in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what's good, but I can't carry it out. ¹⁹For what I do isn't the good I want to do; no, the evil I don't want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I don't want to do, it's no longer I who do it, but it's sin living in me that does it. ²¹So I find this law at work: when I want to do good, evil's right there with me. ²²For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind & making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. ²⁴What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?”

Is this only true of *unsaved* people, or of *US* too?

Do only *unsaved* people make unkind remarks? Cheat?

Paul understands our struggle!

Uses 1st person 47 X —describes *his* experience

—not some pagan!

Present tense; *present* experience—not just *past* life!.

Problem isn't law; it's good. **Problem is US!**

Paul's testimony is *everyone's* testimony!

That's why ark builder got drunk.

That's why leader flew off handle—Moses blew up!
That's why “king after God's heart” committed adultery.

“Though we wish to do good, evil's still in us!!!”

Law doesn't have power to produce obedience.

Why? Because sinful nature, still dwells in us!

We're no longer its slave. *But it's still alive & well!*

Paul says: “*I **am** carnal.*” “*I **am** sold under sin.*”

*“I **Do** what I hate.” “Sin dwells in me.”*

“I keep doing evil I don't want to do.”

We want to please God, but we still struggle!

Have **WE** learned: “*In ME, dwells no good thing!*”

Are we kidding selves, thinking try harder, we'll be OK

With all our best efforts, we're never good enough!

We eventually sound a cry of desperation like Paul:

Who will free us from this body of death?

GOD PROVIDES WHAT LAW LACKS 7:25 *“Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind, am a slave to God's law but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”*

Paul doesn't leave us without hope to face our frustration

Reality of Rom 7 drives us to solution in Rom 8.

Not until we're that desperate will we stop trying to do it ourselves and lean on Jesus!

Only in Jesus is there power to live holy life.

Our efforts lead to defeat and death,

Who will rescue us? “Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Jesus provides what law lacks!
Run, run and do, the Law commands
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
Better news the Gospel brings,
It bids me fly and gives me wings.
O to be saved from myself, dear Lord,
O to be lost in Thee
O that it might be no more I, But Christ that lives in me!
There's nothing wrong with law
-but it will never get us to heaven!
Law reveals our sin
but lacks power to change our lives.
Power to change a life, found in Christ alone!
Are YOU still trying to make it on your own
We can't get there from here!
WE NEED JESUS! => Are YOU trusting Him?