

WHAT ABOUT ROMANS SEVEN?

by Dr. John Church

No doubt there are many people who profess to be Christians that are living the kind of life that is depicted in the seventh chapter of Romans. Sad to say, there are some preachers and teachers who contend that this is the only kind of life that a person can hope to live in this world.

I want to say, however, that if this is a true picture of the best that the Gospel of Christ can do for us, then we surely have a sorry gospel to preach. I would hate to have to stand up before a group of sinners and tell them that if they did get saved they would have to live like this the rest of their lives..

Thank God, Paul did not die in the seventh chapter of Romans. He lived to get out into the eighth chapter and shout, "There is therefore now no condemnation." In the seventh chapter he is wrestling with the law of sin and death, and tied down with a body of sin and death. In the eighth chapter a new law has come in. It is the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. This new law has given him deliverance from the law of sin and death. He has now gotten rid of this old body of sin and death, and is now filled with the Holy Spirit. What the law could not do for him the Holy Spirit has done.

What Paul is pointing out in the seventh chapter, is that the Law cannot give you deliverance from the law of sin and death. The only thing the law can do is to make you conscious that you have this old carnal nature. In the first part of his epistle he has pointed out that the law cannot give you deliverance from the guilt and bondage of sins. The only way to be saved is by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. We are justified by faith and not by keeping the law. Now he is pointing out that, just as the law could not save you, neither can the law sanctify you. The only way to get rid of the old sin nature is by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.

If you study the book of Romans you will find that the Holy Spirit is mentioned only one time in the whole letter, until you get to the eighth chapter. He is mentioned once in the fifth chapter, but when you come to the eighth chapter the Holy Spirit is mentioned 19 times in this one chapter.

In chapter eight you are looking at a Spirit filled child of God who has found victory over the old carnal nature by the power of the blood and the baptism with the Holy spirit.

To quote the seventh chapter of Romans and 1 Timothy 1:15 to try and prove that you have to live in sin is to do violence to the testimony of Paul in many other places, and to cast reflection upon the whole plan of redemption. Our Gospel is a gospel of power and victory and not of sin and defeat. Thank God, He can save the uttermost all that come unto God through Christ.

The Herald

WORLD TO COME

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unutterably wonderful that we Christians have One of our own kind to go ahead and prepare a place for us! That place will be in a world divinely ordered, beyond death and parting, where there is nothing that can hurt or make afraid.

"Jerusalem the glorious!

The glory of the elect!

O dear and future vision

That eager hearts expect!

Even now by faith I see thee,

Even here thy walls discern;

To thee my thoughts are kindled,

And strive, and pant, and yearn."

The Alliance Witness

BETHANY BUILDING FUND

To May 12

Objective: \$100,000

Pledged to Date: \$76,000

No. of Pastorates to be Canvassed: 12

Let us go "over the top" by June 15!

Rev. H. R. Ingersoll, Fund Chairman

Mr. W. E. LaPointe, Fund Treasurer

DEATH

O'Brien

The death of John O'Brien, 80, occurred at the Highland View Hospital, Amherst, Saturday, April 18th.

Surviving are one daughter, Mrs. Preston Wheaton of Oxford. Two sons, Amos of Amherst and Albert of Brookdale.

Funeral service was conducted at Campbell's Funeral Parlors, Rev. H. O. McGeorge officiating.

Mr. & Mrs. Rober Lees, Mr. Norman Wells and Mrs. William O'Brien and daughter Karen assisted with the music.

We extend our sympathy to the family.

Rev. H. O. McGeorge

BE STILL AND KNOW

This act of being "silent and still before God" will not be found easy at first, but we must have patience with ourselves. Our whole aim will be defeated if we become all tensed up with irritation because we cannot "concentrate." We have to learn gradually to "let go." The reason we sit for this way of meditation is to allow our bodies to become perfectly relaxed — there are very few who can be perfectly relaxed on their knees for any length of time. Having relaxed our bodies we then try to "let go" our minds and emotions, a much more difficult proposition! That is why it is helpful before our times of meditation to have a short time of preparation. We think of our Lord speaking to us individually . . . saying to each one of us . . . "Be still, come unto ME . . . rest in ME and 'let go' in My Presence. I am the Friend before whom you can be perfectly natural and who knows you through and through . . . Therefore, BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD . . . Rest in Me".

—Selected

The King's Highway