

9,16,21 Romans 7 Under Grace, Not Law

Before we get into Romans, I want to give an update on some things that have recently come up.

First, the Bible is clear on what the final deception at the end will be.

(Rev. 18:23b) “. . . for your merchants were the powerful people of the earth, because all the nations were deceived by your sorcery.”

The word “sorcery” in the original is “pharmakeia”, from which we get “pharmacy” or “pharmaceuticals”.

The NAS New Testament Greek Lexicon tells us that this word means, “The use or the administering of drugs; poisoning through deception and seduction.”

The "sorcery" of the end-times deception of all nations involves a global distribution of pharmaceuticals.

Based on what the Bible warns us of, how much clearer could what's happening now be?

At this point, we're in the experimental, formation stage of this, but here's what the final form of this deception will look like.

This is from a video of an interview with Dr. Carrie Madej on why and how the mRNA vaccines alter the human DNA. Here's the summary intro for the message she gave in a recent interview:

“There is a battle raging for humanity. Dr Carrie Madej reveals how Big Tech is collaborating with Big Pharma to introduce new technologies in the coming vaccines that will alter our DNA and turn us into hybrids. This will end humanity as we know it and start the process of transhumanism: HUMAN 2.0 The plans are to use vaccines to inject nanotechnology into our bodies and connect us to the Cloud and artificial intelligence. This will enable corrupt governments and tech giants to control the world's vaccinated population.”

<https://www.stopworldcontrol.com/madej/>

And Matt. 24:24 says, “. . . so as to deceive and lead astray, if possible, even the elect.”

Even though this is speaking about the believers in the Tribulation, the conditioning of the world to embrace this deception is already in full operation and the Church is being drawn in.

This move toward transhumanism, or Human 2.0, is Satan’s creation of an imitation new humanity. Just as Christ, after His resurrection, created in Himself a new species of humanity and became the “first born” of that creation, Satan will try to imitate that by developing his own “new species” of humanity made in his image through the hybridization of those who are injected with this pharmaceutical.

As one New Age scientist put it,

“No matter how we name or call for the future of Homo-Sapiens, we have to be one thing first — Homo-noeticus, the New Humanity; that is the self-knowing human. Homo-Sapiens, which means “the knowing human,” knew science, philosophy, belief, art, and literature, but did not know himself. Since he did not know himself, war, chaos, and conflict prevailed in our world since the beginning of Neolithic Period. We are lucky we have not yet destroyed ourselves. The only future is a self-conscious humanity that is connected with all forms of life, the world, and cosmos because ALL is ONE and ONE is ALL.” (Kenan Kolday)

These are just some of the reasons Christians should not take the vaccine. Not just because it’s unsafe, but because it’s part of the most evil and pervasive agenda ever brought into this world.

I know that some of the people who receive these studies are in prison — you need to know that if the State forces you to take the vaccine, the Lord will protect you (Psalm 91).

The importance of seeing through the events happening around us cannot be overstated. Christians are vaccinated simply because they are clueless about what the enemy is doing.

(Hos. 4:6) “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge . . .”

And there's more happening in this world than the medical deception, so I want to read an article written by Daymond Duck (yeah, that's his real name).

Much of what he says involves information about events that have happened – from there, what he says is his own speculation based on the spiritual and geo-political patterns we're seeing globally.

It's a two-page article, so hang tight, we'll definitely get into Romans when I finish reading it.

“America's problem is (rebellion against God): political, judicial and moral corruption. The Church is lukewarm and declining.

We've thrown God out of our schools, courts, government, homes and churches.

We've drenched our land with the blood of innocents through abortion.

We have openly blasphemed God in books, movies, and the media; and even Christians have come to regard this as 'normal.'

We have elected unbelievers to rule over us that want to establish a godless global government and a world religion.

These are not the characteristics of a nation that a holy God will tolerate forever; especially one that originally claimed allegiance to His Name.

Payday has arrived for America, and it is our own fault.

America has reached a point of no return. God has already decided to bring our nation down, and America will never recover.

The debacle in Afghanistan has convinced many world leaders that America can no longer be relied upon to lead the free world.

China now believes it can attack Taiwan and get away with it.

North Korea now believes it can attack South Korea and win because America's leader is weak and indecisive.

Russia, Iran, and Turkey now believe they can march into Israel, and the U.S. will do nothing.

China, Russia, and Iran have now scheduled joint military drills in the Persian Gulf for later this year or early next year.

Israel now knows that her enemies no longer fear her number one ally, and Israel must now act in Israel's own best interests.

The EU knows that something is wrong in America, and the EU must build up its military if the EU wants to remain free.

America is no longer the world's number one superpower, and the decline of America is just what the globalists needed to bring in their one-world government and religion.

On Aug. 18, 2021, the U.K. Parliament held Pres. Biden in contempt for withdrawing from Afghanistan and called his decision "catastrophic" and "shameful." This reflects the thinking of one of America's strongest allies.

Phase 1 of the Globalist plan to establish the New World Order was to create trading blocks of nations, many of which are now in existence.

Phase 2 of the globalist plan is to remove America as the undisputed leader of the free world and replace it with leaders from ten groups of nations. It is the opinion of this writer that America has been deliberately disgraced. World leaders will soon say that the U.S. must be replaced – they will select ten leaders from ten trading blocks of nations, and the U.S. will be in the trading block known as the USMCA (United States, Mexico, and Canada).

Phase 3 is for the Ten Kings to empower one man to rule over the entire world, which will be done immediately following the Rapture.

We are seeing the global development and advancement of technology and policies that will lead to the Mark of the Beast (forced

compliance, development of vaccine passports, a demand for government databases to track people, a demand to prevent the unvaccinated from entering stores to buy or sell, and the spread of anti-Christian rhetoric). And we are seeing the development of the government that will use that technology and force the Mark upon the world.

The Antichrist is alive and well, and waiting in the wings to step into his position as Caesar of the world.

In addition, the Bible teaches that the Kings of the East will invade the Middle East during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 16:12).

These kings will include China, North Korea, and other nations.

China now has the largest navy in the world and is expected to soon be the number one economy in the world; China has built a railroad and highway to the Middle East and has already reached out to the Taliban government in Afghanistan to negotiate a deal with them to mine an estimated one trillion dollars of essential minerals.

Concerning persecution, on Aug. 22, 2021, it was reported that Christians are facing imminent death in Afghanistan, women and young girls are facing rape, beatings, and forced marriages.

On Aug. 24, 2021, the Head of the UN Human Rights Council said she has received credible reports that the Taliban is executing civilians and members of the Afghanistan Security Forces.

The blood of these victims is on the hands of those who have deliberately weakened the U.S.

On Aug. 20, 2021, it was reported that some very large French supermarkets have begun requiring vaccine passports to buy food.

Finally, here is some of this writer's thinking on what we may be seeing in the Muslim world:

Islam believes in world government and world religion, but the Radical Muslims want it to be *Islamic*.

They are fighting and dying to accomplish that.

God will allow a world government and world religion to rise and exist for seven years (the Tribulation Period), but it will not be Islamic.

Some Muslims will perish in the Psa. 83 war.

Some Muslims will perish in the destruction of Damascus (Isa. 17).

Some Muslims will perish in the attempted Russian-Islamic invasion of Israel (Ezek. 38-39).

Some Muslims will perish when the Antichrist plunders Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia during the Tribulation Period (Dan. 11:43).

It is likely that some will perish when the Kings of the East invade the Middle East during the Tribulation Period (Rev. 16:12).

This writer believes that Russia, China, Iran, and other radicals may decide that America is weak and is preoccupied with Covid, Climate Change, the Woke culture, etc.; it is time to strike; time to plunder Israel; time to create an Islamic Caliphate.

America's problem is rebellion against God, and I believe we are the only generation in history that could rightly be called, "The Terminal Generation".

Now, let get into Romans.

I want to start by reading a few verses that represent the principles we saw in Romans 6,

*(Rom. 6:7-8) " He that has died is free from the dominion of sin; now since we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."*

And as we saw last time, our 'death' is positional. Sin still exists in us, but our relationship to sin has changed.

Dying, in this sense, is to leave one realm and enter another. To be born again is to be able to turn our backs on all that we were in Adam and live in union with Christ.

In Romans 7, Paul is going to teach the same thing he taught in Romans 6 – that freedom from sin involves what’s represented by the phrase he uses in *both* chapters, “He that has died . . . is free.”

But in Romans 7, he comes at this from a different angle.

I want to start by sharing the personal experience of C.A. Coates in his understanding of these chapters. I’m using him partly because all of us struggle with entering into the experiential side of Romans 6-8 theology. And partly because his experience seems to represent several other authors I’ve read.

The first and last paragraphs of this are comments by the biographer writing about Coates, the middle section is Coates’ experience in his own words,

“Before God could use men like C.A. Coates, He had to bring them to the end of themselves. He had to teach them that self-confidence--no matter what it's form--could only result in defeat. Many of these servants had to spend years of struggling in the self-life before they learned to depend on the Risen Lord Jesus to be their All in All. One such man was C.A. Coates. The following account reflects some of the lessons he learned in his own struggle with the flesh.

“I had to see about some work being done the other day, and was asking the contractor how much it would cost. 'It won't cost very much,' he said, 'because we can use all the old material.' Now that is precisely what God could *not* do. There must be a new start altogether with new material. God rejects the old material and begins entirely anew, and the one who is born again begins to learn the true character of the old material--i.e., all that he is as a child of Adam and a man in the flesh--and to be as dissatisfied with it as God is. You may see this in Job and Saul of Tarsus. One of them said, 'I abhor myself,' and the other said, 'I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing.' Such language as this is the mark

of one born again. He identifies himself with that new inward man which is of God, and he judges everything of a contrary nature to be sin. In itself this is not a happy experience. It is not very pleasant for one who has been self-sustained and self-satisfied to find that there is not one bit of good in him. Some may discover this by a single flash of divine light, as in the case of Saul of Tarsus, and others may have years of struggling and disappointment before they learn it, but it must be learned sooner or later by every one that is born again.

“You might be very well up on the doctrine of deliverance (Gal 2:20), and yet all the time be secretly attempting to correct and improve yourself, and suffering a good deal of private vexation and disappointment on account of the failure of your attempts. I know how long I struggled on in this way myself, praying and striving to be more holy and Christ-like, and continually disappointed with the result. I do not think that it ever occurred to me in those days that I was trying to improve the man whom God had set aside. It was at a moment when I was utterly discouraged, and ready to give up the whole thing in complete despair, that God showed me how I was attempting to work upon the old material which He could only condemn, and that my disgust and despair as to myself were only a feeble echo of His. I shall never forget the joy of finding out that in the depth of my disgust with myself I was thoroughly at one with God. God had ceased to look for any good in me and had Christ before Him, the perfect and infinitely acceptable Object of His heart; and I, in my nothingness, had ceased to look for good in myself, and was tasting the deep joy of being in Christ, and free to have Him as my Object; while, as to life, I entered in some degree into the blessedness of knowing that it was ‘not I, but Christ lives in me.’”

“This discovery of the inability of self to please God is what turned men such as Hudson Taylor, Andrew Murray and George Muller into instruments that could be used by God.”

I want to add something C.I. Scofield once said also;



“Not everyone, by any means, has had the experience of the seventh of Romans, that agony of conflict, of desire to do what we cannot do, of longing to do the right we find we cannot do. It is a great blessing when a person gets into the seventh of Romans and begins to realize that awful conflict of struggle and defeat; because the first step to getting out of the struggle of the seventh chapter and into the victory of the eighth, is to get into the seventh. Of all the needy classes of people, the neediest of this earth are not those who are having a heartbreaking, agonizing struggle for victory, but those who are having no struggle at all, and no victory, and who do not know it, and who are satisfied with being in a pitiful absence of almost all the possessions that belong to them in Christ.”

I’m sure you’re familiar with what Paul went through, but let’s read his words on it to refresh our memory:

(Rom. 7:15-24) “For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So, I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

If young believers aren’t warned early that it is absolutely necessary that they go through their own Romans 7 experience, then when it happens, they can be (as one author put it) “plunged into almost incurable despair at the sight of their sinfulness.”

Of course, the enemy always comes in at times like that and tells us that what we’re experiencing is proof that we will never be what we’re supposed to be.

In reality, Romans 7 is not only necessary; it's healthy – its evidence we're on the path of genuine self-revelation and spiritual growth.

Last week I said that "God only reveals His deepest truths to those who are desperate to know it". We only find Him when we search with *all* our heart.

Nothing does a better job of cultivating desperation than an extended period of our lives spent in Romans 7.

We never know how long that 'extended period' will be, but like everything else in our lives, the smart thing to do is throw all our concerns and burdens on the Lord and trust that, in His time, He will move us forward.

The bottom line is that self-revelation always precedes spiritual revelation. Miles Stanford wrote this;

"... the believer who is going through struggle and failure is the Christian who is being carefully and lovingly handled by his Lord in a very personal way. He is being taken through the experience of self-discovery and into death, which is the only way to ever know the 'power of His resurrection.' God works by paradox. Success comes through failure and life springs out of death."

And like I shared last week from Evan Hopkins,

"Our experience upward in the power of God is just in proportion to our experience downward in ceasing from self."

Ok, let shift gears and try to understand the 'how' of all this. We saw in Romans 6 that faith has always been the key to any spiritual advance – we're supposed to count these truths as *true*, regardless of personal experience or feelings.

Maybe this will help. How do we know that our sins are forgiven and that God won't bring them up again when we see Him? The only way we could know that is if we believe what the Bible says about it.

The same Bible tells us our relationship to the sin within us has changed from slavery to optional. If we applied the same faith in an ongoing way to this truth that we applied to our forgiveness of sins, we'd experience the reality of both.

I like what F. J. Huegel said about this, even though he was a little harsh on Martin Luther,

“If the great Luther, with his stirring message of justification by faith, had with Paul moved on from Romans 5 to Romans 6 & 7 with their amazing declarations concerning the justified sinner's position of identification with his crucified Lord, would not a stifled Protestantism be on a higher ground today? Might it not be free from its ulcerous fleshiness?”

He has a good point – what seems to characterize most of contemporary Christianity in the West is a combination of defeat and imitation. We aren't experiencing the life that the Lord has given us in Himself.

And if believers continue to be untaught about the truths of Romans 6 through 8, and simply give up in despair when Romans 7 kicks in, they'll never know that life in fullness.

I don't know if you've ever heard of Jessie Penn Lewis, but she was considered one of the greatest expositors of the identification truths in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. What she said about this in her memoirs is a little convicting, so don't go into a guilt trip, but we should consider her exhortation;

“If the difference between ‘Christ dying for us’ and ‘our dying with Him’, has not been recognized, acknowledged, and applied, it may safely be affirmed that self is still the dominating factor in the life.”

She's not intending to say we are losers and should just give up; she's simply saying that we haven't yet understood God's solution to the self-life.

The solution is not us trying to crucify ourselves; it's us trusting in God's ongoing work in our lives and believing that what the scriptures say about the change in our relationship to sin is true.

Believing that our relationship to sin has been broken and that we are free to follow a completely different path doesn't *make* it true; it's *already* true. What our believing does is make it true in *our experience*.

Let's look at the reason Paul brings the Law in, in chapter 7.

(Rom. 7:1) "Do you not know, brethren (for I am speaking to those who know the law) that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives?"

Those who haven't died are still under the Law; and will be judged by God according to how well they have kept the Law.

7:1 makes it clear; as long as you are alive, you are under the dominion of the Law.

The only way to escape the condemnation of the Law is to die.

If there was a way we could share the legal ramifications of the death of Someone Who died under the full punishment of what the Law demands, then we would be free from any condemnation from the Law.

And that's what happened.

Christ was born and died under the Law – and He has 'credited' that death to our account.

So, now God is free to bring grace and life to us, instead of "thou shalt" and "thou shalt not".

Because our position in Christ, our legal standing before God, is not under Law, but is a position of full acceptance and forgiveness under grace.

(Rom. 6:14) "For sin will not have dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

(Gal. 5:1) "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage" (the 'yoke of bondage' in the context of Galatians is the Law)

There's only one way to be saved from the rule of Law (and the condemnation it brings); we have to *see* our death in our Representative, in Christ, and then step by faith *out* from the mentality of trying please God through the Law, and step *into* pleasing Him by believing Him.

(Heb. 11:6) "Because without faith it is impossible to please God"

Here's Stanford again,

"Anything we seek to do, or keep from doing, in our own strength brings us under legal bondage. Any promises or vows we make to the Lord, any code of ethics or rules of conduct that we set up from ourselves or have placed upon us, are on the basis of law and therefore results in failure and ever-deepening enslavement. The principle of law applies to the self-life, and can produce nothing by self-righteousness."

Of course, some believers will hear something like that and use it as an excuse to avoid attempting any obedience at all. I've seen what a life of doing basically nothing looks like. That's not what Paul is talking about.

Paul addresses the hypocrisy of this in passages like this one in Rom. 6:1-2;

"Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

I'll paraphrase that passage to help us apply it;

Shall we keep sinning since grace will always cover our sins? How can we who have been delivered from the whole realm of Law and Sin expect to find genuine spiritual life by going back to that?

Romans 6 shows what union with Christ in His death will do for us in relation to sin; and Romans 7 shows us what that union will do in relation to the Law.

Let's look at some implications of being dead to the Law; first let me share something Watchmen Nee wrote, which will probably totally confuse you – it did when I first read it;

"It means that from henceforth I am going to do nothing whatever for God; I am never again going to strive to please him".

Something sounds "not quite right" about that, doesn't?

But in the context of what Watchman Nee was writing, he was dealing with the *motive and resource* for serving God - not the *absence* of serving.

If you know anything about Watchmen Nee, *rebellious* or *lazy* would not be words you would use to characterize him. His point is this: under Law we serve from fear of condemnation; under Grace, we are free (and *empowered*) to serve in love.

It's not that serving the Lord stops when we understand grace; it simply draws by faith from a new source of strength for its enablement and guidance.

So, Watchmen Nee doesn't *have* to please God, He is *allowed the privilege* of pleasing God.

Big difference.

This is what Paul says, in his own style, in Rom. 7:5-6;

"For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused and exposed by the Law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the Law so that we serve in newness of the Spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter (of the Law)."

As we're going to see in Rom. 8:2; "The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death."

Here's the way Sparks puts it;

"The instrument of this life of defeat is for the most part the Law. We are obsessed by the "Thou shalt's" and "Thou shalt not's," and our state is one of constant repression. Thoughts, words, deeds, imaginations, and desires keep us in a state of continual effort and endeavor to check and control them. What are the results? They are just what the enemy wishes for the most successful achievement of his purposes. Fluctuation, instability, agitation, restlessness, and finally exhaustion. By such means the adversary can cripple and

hinder the progress of the truth more than in any other way; and thus, he blinds the eyes of so many to the true way of the fulness of life in Christ.”

Now, (2 Cor. 4:11) “For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.”

God’s purpose in bringing us into death (in other words; pressure, confusion, even personal failure) is to allow us to realize that dependence on self will never produce spiritual fruit; there is no spiritual life that can come from any resources we have in ourselves.

Life is found only in Christ.

The Law makes its appeal to us and to our strength; so, we fail. Faith makes its appeal to the indwelling Spirit, so we will put *no confidence* in ourselves.

(Phil. 3:8-9) “That I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”

Any righteousness we produce is imitation; it’s *self*-righteousness. But if we learn, over time, through practice and through trial and error, how to walk by faith in dependence on the Lord, it will be *His* life, *His* righteousness that is expressed.

Like everything we learn in these chapters, it takes time and experimentation – and paying attention to what’s happening.

And as we will see in Romans 8, God has given us His Spirit to make real *in our experience* all He has provided for us by our union with Christ.

(John 16:12-15) “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own initiative, but He will speak whatever He hears, and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify and honor Me, because He will take from what is Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the

Father has are Mine. Because of this I said that He [the Spirit] will take from what is Mine and will reveal (or bring) it to you.”

That is the intended relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Church – the Spirit’s labor of love on behalf of the Lord is to form Christ in us, with all that implies related to life and godliness.

(1 Jn. 5:12) “He that has the Son *has* life” (present tense)