

the book of  
**Romans**

theology 101

**ROMANS 7**

**THE SPIRIT AND THE LAW**



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***"What, then, is the purpose of the Law in a Christian's life?"***



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## **I. The Purpose of the Law**

**A. To order our lives in such a way as to free us from the evil consequences of sin.**

***Romans 7:10 (NIV)*** I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life...



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## **I. The Purpose of the Law**

**A. To order our lives in such a way as to free us from the evil consequences of sin.**

*Psalms 1:1-3 (NIV)* <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.



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## **I. The Purpose of the Law**

**A. To order our lives in such a way as to free us from the evil consequences of sin.**

*Galatians 3:19 (NIV) What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.*



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## I. The Purpose of the Law

### B. To show the sinfulness of sin.

***Romans 7:12-13 (NIV)*** <sup>12</sup> So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

<sup>13</sup> Did 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 commandment sin might become utterly sinful.



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## **I. The Purpose of the Law**

### **B. To show the sinfulness of sin.**

It demonstrates the inadequacy of human knowledge.

It demonstrates the inadequacy of human resolution.

It demonstrates the limitations of diagnosis.

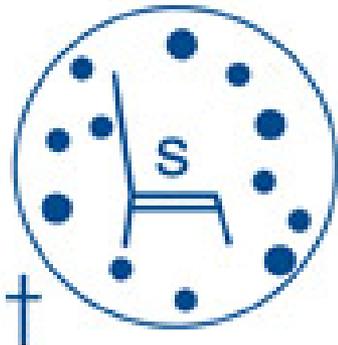
—Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT)

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## I. The Purpose of the Law

### C. To bring us to Christ.



#### **Natural Person (Self-Directed Life)**

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.

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## I. The Purpose of the Law

### C. To bring us to Christ.



#### **Carnal Person (Self-Directed Life)**

Jesus is in the life but not on the throne. Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration.



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## **I. The Purpose of the Law**

### **C. To bring us to Christ.**

**Romans 7:24 (NIV)** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

**Luke 5:8 (NIV)** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"



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## **II. The Powerlessness of the Law**

### **A. The law was powerless to set free from sin.**

***Romans 8:2 (NIV)*** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.



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## II. The Powerlessness of the Law

**B. The law did not provide an adequate sacrifice for sin.**

***Romans 8:3 (NIV)*** For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,



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## II. The Powerlessness of the Law

**B. The law did not provide an adequate sacrifice for sin.**

*Hebrews 7:18-19 (NIV)* <sup>18</sup> The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless

<sup>19</sup> (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.



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## **II. The Powerlessness of the Law**

### **C. The law is powerless to motivate toward right living.**

***Romans 7:5 (NIV)*** For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.



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## II. The Powerlessness of the Law

### C. The law is powerless to motivate toward right living.

***Romans 7:21-23 (NIV)*** <sup>21</sup> So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

<sup>22</sup> For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

<sup>23</sup> but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **A. The problem is not the law.**

*Romans 7:12 (NIV)* So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **A. The problem is not the law.**

***Matthew 9:16-17 (NIV)*** <sup>16</sup> "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.

<sup>17</sup> Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved."



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **A. The problem is not the law.**

*Romans 8:2 (NIV)* because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **A. The problem is not the law.**

***Romans 12:2 (NIV)*** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **B. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free.**

***Romans 8:2 (NIV)*** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

***1 John 4:4 (NIV)*** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

#### **B. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free.**

***Romans 8:2 (NIV)*** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

***Galatians 3:5 (NIV)*** Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

**C. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free to fulfill the law's righteous requirements.**

*Romans 8:4 (NIV)* in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

**C. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free to fulfill the law's righteous requirements.**

*1 Peter 4:1-3 (NIV)* <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup> As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

**C. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free to fulfill the law's righteous requirements.**

<sup>3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do--living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

**C. The Spirit-possessed law sets us free to fulfill the law's righteous requirements.**

***2 Corinthians 5:14-15 (NIV)*** <sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

***Colossians 2:6-14 (NIV)*** <sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him



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### **III. The Possessor of the Law**

you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the

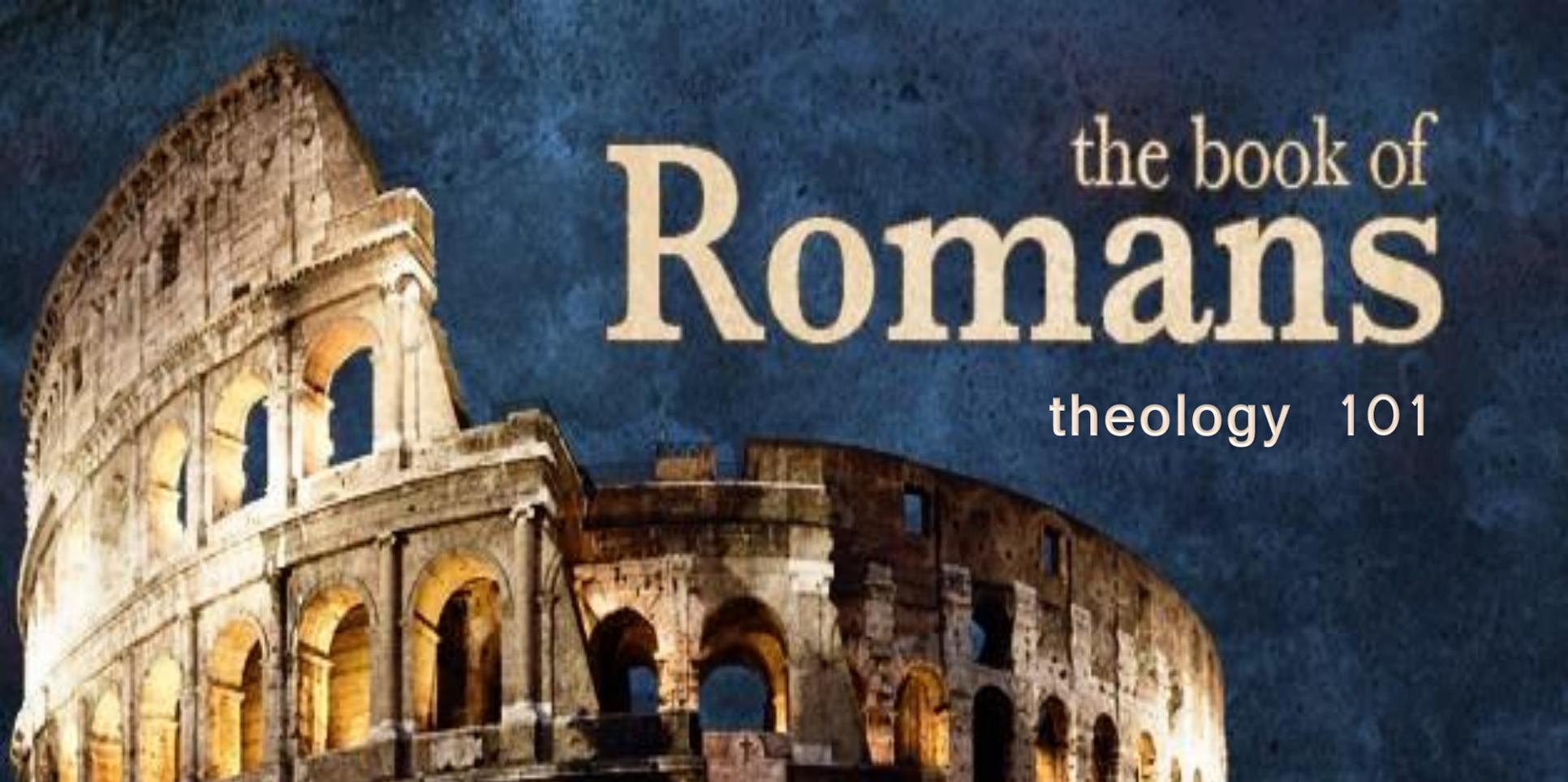
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## **Spiritual Person (Christ-Directed Life)**

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus.  
The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.



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