

COMING UP ... JUNE 16 Romans 8 JUNE 23 Joshua part 2 JUNE 30 Judges part 1 JULY 7 Judges part 2

LIVING IN THE "PROMISED LAND"

Those who've "crossed the river" have settled the answers to three questions ... and then live in light of those answers ...

How does God see me—really? (Rom 5)

As justified

At peace with Him: grace now, glory to come

How do I overcome deliberate sin? (Rom 6)

The issue of license: "Since I'm forgiven ..."

Know, consider/reckon, yield

REVIEW

"OLD BILL"

Owner: Satan

Ruler: Sin

Me: "in Adam"

Power: Sin exercised its authority and power over me as Adam's child

Led me to commit sins

Led me to spiritual death and separation from God

"NEW BILL"

Owner: God

Ruler: Grace/Jesus Christ

Me: "in Christ"

Power: no longer under the authority and power of Sin but under Grace/Spirit

Draws me to obedience

Draws me toward Christ, righteousness and holiness

LIVING IN THE "PROMISED LAND"

Those who've "crossed the river" have settled the answers to three questions ... and then live in light of those answers ...

How does God see me—really? (Rom 5)

How do I overcome deliberate sin? (Rom 6)

The issue of **license**: I cannot live as I used to live

How do I pursue holiness? (Rom 7-8)

The issue of **legalism** (7)

OVERVIEW OF ROMANS 5-8

5	6	7	8
Justification		Sanctification	
Penalty Paid		Power Broken	
Our Position		Our Progress	
Christ died for us	We died with Christ to sin	We died to the Law	We walk in the Spirit
New position New standing New privileges	We died to sin as a master	We died to our own self-effort	We are transformed by the Spirit

LESSON THEME: Do's and don'ts don't work

Romans 7: Big Idea

As Christians justified by faith in Christ are we *now* able to obey the law to grow?

No! Left to ourselves our human weakness makes it impossible for even the holy and good Law of Moses to rescue us from the indwelling power of sin and release us from its wages of death

Obeying law (do's & don'ts) has never broken anyone's bondage or led to freedom & growth

We aren't *unwilling*, but we are *unable*

Do's And Don'ts Don't Work

The justified have been set free from the "land" and power of the Law (7)

They have a new relationship to the Law (7:1-6)

The death of a spouse in a marriage leads to freedom for the survivor to remarry

Death has freed the Christian from their former "marriage" to the Law and allows them to enter into a new, intimate relationship with Jesus

Different economy: I'm now entitled to receive His grace *gifts* rather than only *wages* from Sin (Rom 6:23)

But what about God's Law? (7:7-12)

It's good, righteous and holy

It testifies truthfully to Who God is and what He is really like

The problem isn't the Law—it's man! (7:13-25)

Sin uses the Law to fight believers at every turn

Sin uses the Law to arouse rebellion, even in the Christian, and give birth to its fruit of spiritual death

Just as the Jew who tries and tries to obey the Law remains frustrated and bound up under the Law, so will *all others* be who try to use that same strategy

The harder the believer tries, the worse it gets ... and the worse he/she feels about himself/herself!

Of himself, man is simply *unable* to obey God's Word

Every Christian needs "outside" help!

Romans 7: Summary

The justified have been set free from the "land" and power of the Law (7)

They have a new relationship to the Law (7:1-6)

But what about God's Law? (7:7-12)

The problem isn't the Law—it's man! (7:13-25)

Your *resolve* and mine to obey the Word has never solved our problems, given us freedom or produced the growth we so passionately desire. In fact, it's only worked against us!

Do's And Don'ts Don't Work

The truth is *self-effort* can't produce holiness

Trying to keep rules, regulations and/or good resolutions has never saved anyone ... or curbed sin or produced true holiness

In fact, trying harder to follow rules or keep resolutions will *never* work permanently!

Of ourselves, we're *unable* to make progress ...

Only the Holy Spirit can bring change because He's the only One with resurrection power!

Application: As a result, in the "Promised Land" I've been freed from the self-effort of do's and don'ts

You've Been Freed From Self-Effort

"OLD BILL"

Owner: Satan

Ruler: Law/Sin

Me: "in Adam"

Power: Sin exercised its authority and power over me as Adam's child

Result: I sinned

Wages: spiritual death and separation from God

"NEW BILL"

Owner: God

Ruler: Grace/Jesus Christ

Me: "in Christ"

Power: no longer under the authority and power of Sin but under Grace/Spirit

Result: drawn to obedience

Gifts: relationship w/ Christ, righteousness and holiness

Keeping the law can only work on us from the outside-in, never from the inside-out

No permanent *heart* change can EVER occur by just modifying our behavior

Romans 7: striving to keep a list of do's and don'ts is what *doesn't* work!

Do you not remember? It wasn't Moses, but *Jesus* Who led you into the "Promised Land!"

Just as the Jew who tries and tries to obey the Law remains frustrated and bound up under the Law, so Christians who seek to follow that same method (legalism) will experience frustration and bondage

The *principle* of obeying law has never solved man's problems or given believers growth

God has freed us to pursue a faith *relationship* with Jesus, *not a list of do's and don'ts*

Things That Inhibit Growth

Are you trying to keep a list of do's & don'ts ...

Believing if you do that God will in some way "owe" you or look more favorably upon you?

Bookkeeping mindset

Are you trying to keep a list of do's & don'ts ...

Believing if you do that God will protect you and the "other shoe" will never drop?

Bookkeeping mindset

Do you look down on others who don't keep *your* list of do's and don'ts?

Does your walk bring you joy and freedom ... or stress, disappointment and discouragement because you've never done enough ... or aren't good enough?

Do you have too high an opinion of yourself ... or do you see yourself as one desperately and daily in need of a Deliverer?

Have you fully settled in your mind that self-effort is a dead-end road to spiritual growth?

What To Reflect On ... So Far

Romans 5 (*our standing/identity*)

We've been justified by God's legal declaration

Peace and safety with Him: grace now and glory later

Romans 6 (*our relationship*)

He's united us to Jesus Christ (Death/Burial/Resurrection)

While you're not yet all you will be, you're no longer who you once were!

Continuing in sin is inadmissible in our lives

Romans 7 (*our inability*)

Do's and don'ts won't bring about spiritual growth because they rely on our self-effort; I'm not *unwilling*, but I am *unable*

We desperately need "outside" help!

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

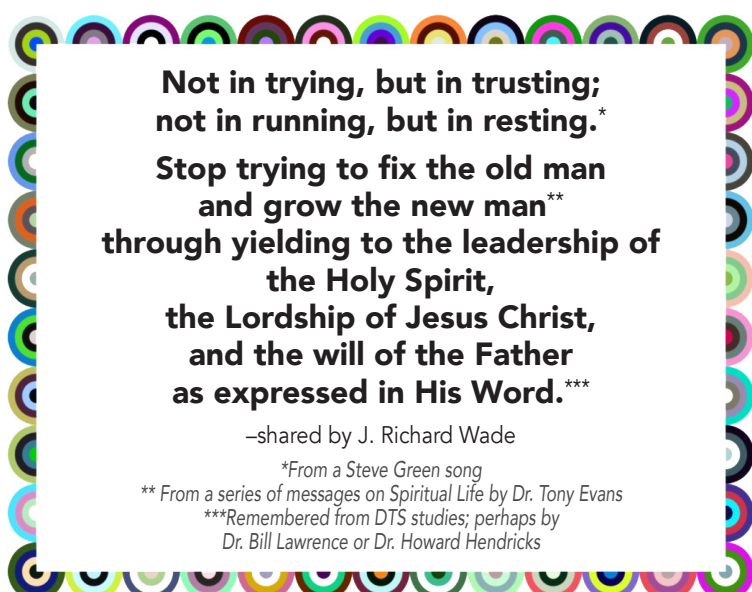
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AUDIO & HANDOUTS ON OUR WEBSITE:

www.ccbcfamily.org/sermons/old-testament-survey

AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) ON ITUNES:

search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"



**Not in trying, but in trusting;
not in running, but in resting.*
Stop trying to fix the old man
and grow the new man**
through yielding to the leadership of
the Holy Spirit,
the Lordship of Jesus Christ,
and the will of the Father
as expressed in His Word.*****

—shared by J. Richard Wade

*From a Steve Green song

** From a series of messages on *Spiritual Life* by Dr. Tony Evans

***Remembered from DTS studies; perhaps by
Dr. Bill Lawrence or Dr. Howard Hendricks