

The Law of Sin and Death

One of the reoccurring themes, which seem to permeate many of the sermons throughout most of Christianity, is that Jesus has delivered us from “**The Law of Sin and Death**”. So, we are not bound by the Laws of the Old Testament any more. Would this be an accurate assessment of what Paul was trying to convey to the Congregation in Rome, to whom he was writing?

Romans 8:2-4 (NIV)

(2) because through Christ Jesus **The Law of the Spirit of Life** set me **FREE** from **The Law of Sin and Death**.

(3) 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,

(4) 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.

Here we see that Paul is showing a dichotomy between **The Law of the Spirit of Life** on one side and **The Law of Sin and Death** on the other. Paul is trying to convey how his own sinful nature had weakened and rendered the Law powerless. Which Law? Is it **The Law of the Spirit of Life** or **The Law of Sin and Death**? Paul concludes by talking about those “who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit (of Life). Perhaps Paul, in his own way, is trying to remind the Church in Rome of what God had said in The Torah (the first Five Books of the Old Testament).

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (NIV)

(19) This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that **I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses**. Now **choose life**, so that you and your children may live

(20) and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

It appears that Paul in his own way is trying to explain, in his letter to the Romans, that because of his own sinful nature he, in the past, had chosen sin, death and curses. But no longer! He had now made the choice to no longer live according to his old sinful nature. But now he had chosen to live according to the Spirit (of Obedience) and in doing so he had chosen Life and Blessings.

Matthew 19:17 (NIV)

(17) “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. **If you want to enter Life, obey THE COMMANDMENTS.**”

Blessings and Life are the essence of **The Law of the Spirit of Life**, which comes into play through the observance of and the keeping of, **GOD’S COMMANDMENTS!** **Curses and death** are at the very core of **The Law of Sin and Death**, which comes into play, when you **FREE** yourself from the observance of, and the keeping of, **GOD’S COMMANDMENTS!**