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A portion this evening is roman 7, verses 13 through 20. These are the words of god. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not. But sin that it might appear sin. Was producing death in me through. What is good?

So that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly, sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual. But i am carnal. Sold under sin. For what i am doing. I do not understand. For what i will to do. That i do not practice. But what i hate. That i do.

If then i do, what i will not to do. I agree with the law that it is good. But now it is no longer i who do it. But sin that dwells in me. For, i know that in me. That is in my flesh. Nothing good. Dwells. For to will is present with me.

But how to perform, what is good. I do not find. For the good that i will to do. I do not do. But the evil. But the evil that i will not to do, That i practice. Now, if i do what i will not to do, It is no longer i who do it.

But sin. That dwells. In me. Amen. So far. The reading of god's inspired and inherent word.

The apostle is perplexed, or at least he has been And he asks a question. Has then what is good become death to me and what he's talking about is the law and the commandment as he's just said. In verse 12, the law is holy. And the commandment is holy, and just and good.

The problem is, That when the law came along. He who had appeared to be alive. Discovered that he was dead. He says, in verse 9, i was alive once without the law. But when the commandment came sin, revived And i, Died. And so this thing this law that he has just said was good.

When it came along. He died and so he's asking. If it's good. Did the good thing become death to me? And the simple immediate answer is certainly not. Man, it never be. And by the time we are done sorting through. His thinking. In response to this. We will have solved three more puzzles.

The first one. Where did my spiritual death? Come from. Where did the spiritual deadness? That is in me. Come from. Or that was in me as we will. Uh, find out shortly. Second. How is it that i now will? What is good? And agree with the law. Because he's going to conclude that his spiritual death came from within himself.

It came from his own sinfulness. And if his spiritual death came from his sinfulness, Then how is it that someone who was spiritually dead? How could he desire? What is good? How can he agree with god's good law? And then the third place. Why do i keep on sinning?

Because he comes to the conclusion that if he's agreeing with god's good law, If he now wills to do, what is good? Then. He is no longer spiritually dead. He's no longer the way that he started out in his flesh and in his sin. So if he is no longer in his flesh, Then why does he?

Keep on sinning. And so those are the three puzzles that That will be solved unraveled. As we go through our passage tonight. First then, where did spiritual death come from He says. Has then what is good become death to me certainly not but sin that it might appear sin.

Was producing death in me. Through what is good? So that sin through the commandment. Might become exceedingly. Sinful. And you remember, last week we referred to James chapter 1 and it probably bears reading again. That the lord does not tempt us but it is our sin. Within us that tempts us.

So he says let no one say. When he is tempted, i'm tempted by god. For god cannot be tempted by evil. Nor does he himself tempt anyone? But each one is tempted, when He has drawn away. By his own desires. And enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin.

And sin. When it is full grown. Brings forth. Death. So, he's saying, It wasn't god, who tempted me, who produced death and me. And it wasn't god's good law. That produced death and me. What? Produced death in me was my own sin sin that it might appear sin. Was producing death in me.

Death came from my sinfulness. It was already in me. In fact, the problem is, he was so dead that he didn't know it. He thought that he was doing a good job killing his sin. He thought that he was alive. This is what he thought. This is what he said.

Verse 8. Apart from the law, and was dead. I was alive once without the law. But when the commandment came sin, revived And i died. He was so foolish. That he thought that he was That he was obeying god's law. Even though he didn't love the lord from the heart, he didn't love god's law from the heart, he wasn't content with god's providence to him.

In fact, he wanted to get away with as much sin as he could and still keep the letter of the law. And but when he was obeying that way, just trying to get the letter right. He was spiritually dead. And so, the law. The good thing that he's talking about when he says has what is good become death to me?

That didn't kill him. The law did him good by showing him that he was already dead. The law proved to him, his total depravity. Sin that it might appear sin. He says, Was producing death in me through what is good and what was good, the commandment So that sin through the commandment.

Might become. Exceedingly sinful. It took away all of his illusions. All of his self-flattery. That said that he had anything good in him. No. The commandment came god's. Good law came. And showed him that the only thing that was from him. The only thing that was in him was sin Like he's going to say in a moment that was when, when the commandment came that was when he discovered that nothing good dwells in his flesh, that was when he discovered that, he is fleshly as verse 14 says, Sold under sin, a slave of sin.

The law did me good. He says By proving my total depravity. It showed me that my nature was so bad. That even with god's good law. Even in response to god's good law, it would produce death in me. So he says sin that it might appear sin, You see, he had sin.

But it didn't appear to him to be sinful. In fact, he was obeying outwardly and proud of it. He couldn't even see that that pride was sinful. And so what the law did was, it took the thing that was sinful And it made it appear. To him to be sinful.

How many of us? Have thought that we were good. Have thought that we were obedient have thought that we were better than others. Have even dared to feel in our hearts. Like the israelites that god should really pay attention to how good we've been, why isn't he paying us back in kind?

Like the Israelites say and Isaiah 58. How many of us have been in that condition? And then god's word comes near. And it opens up, it reveals the thoughts and intentions of our hearts it's living and active. It shows us. Either by the mirror in which we see ourselves.

The intentions of our hearts, how far we fall, short of loving god, with all our heart, and soul and mind, and strength, or when it comes, and it shows us in the mirror of the lord, jesus christ. His perfect submission to the will of god, his perfect love for for god and all his law.

His love for his enemys. And we see how far we far, we fall short. Oh, the law is good. When it shows us. Our sinfulness. In fact, what he's saying is the law, delivered him from pelagianism. The law delivered him from our minionism. Because he was not. Uh, he was not partially, good needing just some grace to be put into him.

Maybe even a lot of grace, but still with a spark of divine goodness in him. No. Whatever good could be added to his condition outside of christ before the spirit came. He was dead. And nothing could help him. What we needed for our was for ourselves to be completely in another because we were in the flesh, we were in our sin and so long as someone is in his sin.

So long as someone is spiritually dead. There's nothing that can be put into that person. That will do him any good. To be like us going outside just now and digging up a corpse and trying to pour medicine into it. It's not going to come alive. You actually have to be alive before the medicine.

Can do you any good? And so the law delivered him from any illusion. That he was just broken. That he was just sick. That he just needed a little bit of help. This is one of the reasons why when we're talking about unbelievers, The language of brokenness can be, so unhelpful to them.

Because what they need, what we have all needed. Was the law to come and say, no, your sin is exceedingly sinful. You're not just broken. Your dad. You need life. And if you are here this evening, And you don't love God's law because it's his Love it because it's good and he is good and he gave it wants to keep it because it's his Then you too need to find out from god's law.

That you are exceedingly, sinful. That you are totally. Depraved. But if you are here this evening, And you know that you were totally depraved. But now you look at what you how you started in the flesh, i'm carnal as a slave to sin, sold under sin. And you feel what's left of that.

But you hate it because you love god and you love his law. You delight in his law from your inner being like we're going to hear next week or you your conviction about him and his law is that the law is holy in the commandment is holy and just and good, you're not you're no longer saying that the law was in, you're saying the law was good because it showed me that i am sin.

If that is a condition, you are here in this evening, then you're not here in yourself. You are no longer in your flesh. One who is in his flesh. Does not agree with the law that it is good, as we are about to come here. And the second part and verses 15 and 16.

You see, as soon as you realize that you are dead in yourself, And as soon as having realized that you are dead in yourself, You find out that you are no longer in yourself, you're clinging to christ And the your love for christ is what's fueling your desire to kill your sin.

Even though the sin is very much alive in you, you are not. Dead in your sin. If that's the case with you. Then you're no longer totally depraved. Because you are no longer totally in yourself. As long as you are in yourself, you're totally depraved. This is the great thing in in salvation, to come out of yourself and into jesus christ.

To realize about yourself that if you appear without christ, if you appear outside of christ and are not in him on the last day, then there will be only sin to be seen in you Nothing that you thought was good. Will stand the judgment of god. But when you come to christ, You come out of yourself.

The holy spirit gives you to see who you are and to see who jesus is, And to choose not to be before God in yourself, but to be before god, now and always and at the last day in the lord, jesus christ, You cry out to him to cover you.

He cry out to him to save you. You cry out to him. To be your life. That sort of person is not totally depraved. Because he's not totally in himself now. He's in the lord jesus christ. So, he says, We know that the law is spiritual. Says the lock the law could not have.

Uh could not have been sin as he asked in verse 7 or the thing that produced death as he asked in verse 13, because the law comes from the holy spirit. Well, the law is born of the spirit. But what were we born of? And the answer if you've only had one birth, Is that you were born of the flesh?

As a slave of sin. Verse 14. And so, before we move on to answer the The other puzzles are to consider the other puzzles. Let me ask you. You remember the the scripture, where the lord jesus says, If your hand or your eye, or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

Well, we know that it's not our hand or our eye, or our foot, the cost us to sin isn't What is it that has caused us to sin? Was it not our sinfulness? And is that not still with us? Still in us even if we are not in our flesh.

Isn't our flesh still in us, our sinfulness is shall we not cut it off. How often you've come to that passage? I know you have and thought well that that's very drastic. You think about christians going around with with one eye or if eyes could cause you to sin, then they'd all have no ice.

And they'd all have no hands, and they don't have no feet. But this is how drastic we should be with sin and praise god. It doesn't disfigure. Us, does it to cut sin off? It actually conforms us more to the image of god makes us more truly human more truly beautiful as human beings.

Your sin. Is what has caused you to sin. Cut it off. Well, that's the question. Where did spiritual death come from? But then there is this new question. Because he says in verse 15 now what i am doing, i do not understand. For what i will to do that.

I do not practice. But what i hate that i do So, i ask you Which is it that he doesn't understand. That he wills. What is good? Or that he does, what is bad? Because he's just said, at the end of verse 14, i am carnal sold understand. He knows why he would do, what is bad?

Because he isn't exceedingly sinful sinner. The new puzzle is. How is it that he wills to do? What is good? How can someone who began in the flesh, who began as a slave of sin, who began, totally depraved, to use the language with which some of us are familiar.

How can that person? Now will to do what is good. How can that person? Agree. With the law verse 16. If then i do, what i will not to do. I agree with the law. That it is good. So the condition in verse 15. Willing. To do. What he does not practice and hating the evil that he does practice.

This shows that he's agreeing with the law. In other words, he's had a second birth. The law was born of what verse 14, the spirit, but he was originally born of what the the flesh under sin. And yet now he is no longer opposed to the law, he is now agreeing with the law.

And so the condition, this this battle that he has within himself, wrestling against the sin that he keeps doing and he hates it. Desiring that he would do the righteousness that he keeps failing to do, but he loves that righteousness. And he wishes he could have it. And he loves the god of the good god of the law.

The only way that he could come into that condition. Is that he and the law now have been born. Of the same parent. He has been born of the holy spirit. Just as the law was born. Of the holy spirit, if you realize that dear Christian, If you're a christian, One of the things that grieves you the most Is how little you do the good.

That pleases the lord, that honors him. That shows forth christ. That is a offering of your body as a living, sacrifice unto God. How little good you do to your brother? How little good you do to your neighbor? How little good there is in your heart. But there is a little good.

In all of these desires that do not come from the flesh. They do not come from the sinful nature. They come. From the holy spirit. And what this is saying is, If you look at your bible, And, you know, and believe these words. These words have been given to us by the holy spirit.

And they are therefore to us precious words. Like we were thinking in acts on the lord's day morning, That we can read our Bible that you can say to yourself, as you start your private worship, thus says the holy spirit, And then you read holy scripture. But you're amazed.

These are words that came from the spirit. Well, is this not pass? It is. This passage. Not telling you. That when you love god. And when you love the law, because it's his law, You are one. Who has been born of the holy spirit? He gave you a new birth.

That's where love forgot has come from. What a glorious encouragement. But then there is that question. If i've been given this new birth by god, the holy spirit. If my new nature. In union with the lord jesus christ. If my new nature has the same origin, even as the bible, Then how is it that i keep sinning?

And this, he answers in verses 17 through 20. He concludes then. Now. It is no longer i who do it. But sin that dwells In me. In other words, i am no longer in the flesh. I am in christ. I am in the spirit. And then the sin is not coming from my new nature, it's not coming from my new identity.

You don't have two natures at one time, that's not the way that nature's work. Your nature is your most fundamental self your nature. Is determining who you are, and who you will be.

So he says it is no longer i who do it. But he does. So what that sin. Dwells in him. So, what he's concluded is, I am no longer in my flesh as a slave to sin. But even though i am no longer in my flesh, my sin is still in me.

It dwells in me. He says this once in verse 17 sin. That dwells in me and he repeats it again, at the end of verse 20, it is no longer i who do it, but sin that dwells in me. This is where we get the language of indwelling sin.

The indwelling sin that is in believers or remaining sin. That is in believers. Indwelling is even better. Because it's right out of the scriptures. You can see And so, even after i am no longer in myself, Even after i am no longer in my flesh. Even after i have come to be in christ, even after i have come to be in the spirit, There's still sin.

Me. It is an ongoing reality. The sin in me, is why The good that i will to do. I do not do. The sin that is remaining in me, dwelling in me. Is why the evil that i will not to do? I keep practicing. Verse 19. And so, it's now That what they armenian thinks he needs to be justified.

It's now that we need that grace. It's now that we need the medicine. Because, I am alive in christ. And if you are a believer in jesus, you are alive in christ. But their sins still in you. And you need the continual portion of the grace of the lord jesus christ by which you will fight your sin.

This is how we grow. We, we don't grow in the grace and knowledge of jesus christ by growing to be more gracious and growing to no christ more. We do want to grow to know christ more, but when peter says that, It's an instrumental use of growing the grace and grow in the knowledge of jesus christ.

We need more of christ's grace so that we will grow, we need to know him more so that we will grow Because sin remains in us. We are continually dependent upon grace, we continually need fresh grace from the lord jesus. Because even though i am no longer in the flesh, That flesh that was from me is still in me.

And there's nothing good in it. You see that in verse 18? I know that in me, that is in my flesh. In what remains from my former self. I am not in my flesh. But my flesh is in me. And nothing good. Dwells in my flesh. I have the willing, i have the new nature that is from the lord jesus christ, by his spirit.

But the doing the ability is not in my new nature. The ability is still in jesus. The ability is still from his spirit. And this is why. We are in continual need of grace. Though, the believer is not in his sin. The sin that is in him. Is still from him.

And so you must own your sin before. God. If you're a Child here this evening. And you've been hearing this language of, it is no longer eye, you do it but sin that dwells in me, Perhaps, you've had the childish thought that i used to have. Print maybe for longer than i was an actual child.

Which is. Well, if it's not, i who am doing it, but sin that dwells in me, then really it should be sin. Getting the swats not me, But the flesh. That is in us. Is still from us. Isn't it the sinfulness? That we are no longer in. We're in christ now.

And yet that sin that dwells in us is from us. And we do need discipline. And we do need instruction. And we do need grace and we do need faith. And we do need the increasing knowledge of our lord jesus christ. By which? We may grow. And so, i hope that you are here tonight.

Experiencing your life as a war against sin. If that is not the experience of your life, then you are still dead. And you need to see that you are exceedingly sinful. That there is nothing good in you. But if you are here tonight warring against sin, because you love god.

Warring against sin because you love the law, not, because the law makes you feel superior to others. But because the law is god's law. And it's precious and true and good, and right, and holy for his own sake. If that is the condition in which you are here tonight, That i hope that you are experiencing your life.

Not only as a war against sin, which every christian must but also as a continual thankfulness and praise that you live in amazed wonder, That you are not in yourself. But you are in the lord jesus christ.

And you have, His spirit dwelling in you. And by the spirit you are putting to death. The deeds of the body. And if that is your experience. Then i hope one more thing for you. That you live in the confidence. That if by his spirit, You are able to be fighting the sin that dwells in you.

That you are sure. That there is coming a day. That he who has begun. The work will have completed it. And there will not be any sin dwelling in you. Any longer. You won't just be. In christ, instead of your in your sin. You won't even have any sin remaining in you.

That day is coming. Dear christian. Because you have been made alive. In the lord, jesus christ. And as you fight against your sin, It is no longer you. Who do it? But sin dwelling in you. Because you, Are in the lord jesus christ. I'm in.