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Roman 7 verse 25. Through 8 verse 4. These are the words of god. I thank god. Through jesus christ. Our lord. So then with the mind, i myself serve the law of god. But with the flesh, the law of sin. There is therefore now, no condemnation. To those who are in christ jesus.

Who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the spirit, For the law of the spirit of life in christ, jesus. Has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was week through the flesh, god did By sending his own son.

In the likeness of sinful flesh. On account of sin. He? Condemned sin in the flesh. That the righteous requirement of the law. Might be fulfilled in us. Who do not walk according to the flesh. But according. To the spirit. So far, the reading of gods inspired. And an errant word, we look to him.

To add his blessing to the preaching of it. And the hearing of it preached.

First one is maybe one of the better known verses in romans perhaps all the bible. There is therefore now, no condemnation. To those who are in christ jesus. And sadly, because of the proliferation of the Uh, critical text. Uh, there are many translations that do not have the rest of verse 1.

Who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the spirit and of course, it's going to be repeated at the end of verse 4. Who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the spirit, It seems to be starting an entirely new idea. And indeed the end of verse 25 of chapter 7, Concluded.

With a summary of verses 21 through 25 and really versus 13 through 25. So then with the mind, i myself serve the law of god, but with the flesh, the law of sin. So why are we going back? To pick up. I thank god through jesus christ. Our lord.

And the reason simply is that this idea of being united to jesus christ, our lord Is the central idea. It's what makes verse 1 and verse 2 possible. If there was no union with jesus christ, there would still be condemnation. So, verse 1 says there is therefore now no condemnation to whom Not to everyone.

To those who are in. Christ, jesus. And who has been freed? From the law of the spirit of life. Or by the law of the spirit of life, from the law of sin and death. Not everyone. It's those who are in christ jesus for the law of the spirit of life in christ, jesus.

Has made me free from the law of sin. And death. And it is this union with christ. That. Has triggered this consideration of how if i'm in christ jesus, there's no condemnation already for me. It's all gone. And it is because i am in christ jesus that the law of the spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death.

And what drove him to consider. Union with jesus christ through jesus christ, our lord. Is because being delivered from the body of this death was not something that was going to

come in any other way. Except by union with Jesus Christ, that was the question in verse 24. That verse 25 is answering by implication.

A wretched man that I am, who will deliver me from? This body of death are more literally, the body of this death. He doesn't just say, God will deliver me? He responds immediately with thanksgiving for the deliverance. I thank God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And so, as he's struggling with the fact that even after wanting to do good even after being made new by the Holy Spirit and having this new man and the law of his mind being that he wants to obey God and he loves God's law, but the law in his members being that even though he's not in his flesh anymore, his flesh is still in him.

His sin. Still dwells in him and it's always present with him. And so, This is a very difficult. To use his word wretched condition. And wanting to be delivered, from it, reminds him. That he absolutely certainly will be delivered from it. And so it's thankfulness for future benefits of his being united with Christ.

This is how faith works. It's not like, God takes all of our obedience that we owed to him and all of our sinning against him that we have done and says, well, You can't give me that, but tell you what? My son is so good. That if you believe in him, I'll take your faith instead.

No. He takes his son instead. When you believe in Jesus, You are joined to him. You become his and he becomes yours. And yes, his sacrifice becomes yours and wipes out all of your guilt. All of the punishment that you deserved. And his obedience becomes yours and you are as, right?

Just before God, as if you had only ever loved him entirely and only ever obeyed him completely, But even the sacrifice and the righteousness. Are just too small parts of something much better and much greater. That Jesus himself. Has become yours. And not only he has become yours. But you have become his.

So you have the wonderful promise. I will be your God and you will be my people. And this promise, By God to Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and those who have followed It's repeated or mirrored later on, in the Song of Songs, when God is revealing himself, as the lover of those, whom he is saving bringing them into union with him.

And the refrain there isn't, I will be your God and you will be my people. He gives to the bride to say I am my beloveds. And my beloved is my, And so, when he, he is thinking about, who will wretched, man, that I am, who will deliver me from the body of this death, and he has this distress over how his new desires for obedience and holiness to love God, who has loved him.

And yet, he's not fulfilling those desires and he's wretched because he's not fulfilling them. And yet the question, who will deliver me has this answer? I think God through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And immediately there's something much better. Then just being delivered from the wretchedness. Of the battle against remaining sin.

And the better thing is the union with Jesus Christ himself. Jesus Christ, who will give him the deliverance from remaining sin and will give him even a new body. Not only, will he be delivered from the body of this death? At the moment that he dies and he'll be done with this body, for until the resurrection, that body will go into the grave.

You will be perfect and holiness. We heard about all that last week, but also through union with Christ, he already has no condemnation. No guilt before God at all, no punishment hanging over his head from the wrath and fury of God. And even in the battle. Is doing the battle in union with Christ.

Not just going to enjoy union with christ, when he's finally delivered. He's enjoying union with christ, just by virtue of the fighting just by virtue of the walking according to the spirit, which is not an easy walk. If you had to say a walking according to the spirit, which is it more like walking along the cement path or walking along the slippery rocks and you constantly falling off and it's like the second one.

Some of you have been hiking recently and had a walk like that. The christian walk is like that, but still it's a walk that is. According to the spirit, it's an enjoyment of the union with your redeemer. A union that you don't yet experience perfectly. But it is true and it is real already.

And you will. And so he has turned over to thankfulness. Even by his wretchedness, which is delicious. In the book of romans, if we can put it that way because one of the great things for which we are under the wrath of god to begin with, remember all the way back to chapter 1 verse 21, although they knew god, they did not glorify him as god or were Thankful.

And you remember what it was saying there in chapter one that god has put all of these good things in his creation and he's even created us with an innate knowledge of him, not knowledge of him, that is within us that he built into us. And despite his doing that, we weren't thankful.

And so now in the wisdom of god and the love of god, he's given us, not just his creation to be thankful for. But his redemption to be thankful for. And one of the things that ought to provoke us to thankfulness is the fierceness of the battle. Now, that we know will end in deliverance It's kind of, like, If?

Torturing yourself and some workout or Or something like that. And you know that there's a certain number of sets or there's a certain length of time and thankfulness for when it's going to be over is actually something that that fuels you and and motivates you and helps you in the midst of it.

And so even the wretchedness of the battle against sin, Is designed. To produce thankfulness in us. And so i hope that if you, this is something that you have not yet experienced and not been practicing, you'll learn that from the apostle this evening as we turn over from verse 25 and which the thankfulness was first expressed last week.

And the thankfulness for future deliverance to thankfulness for past deliverance from guilt. The future deliverance is from the presence of sin but we are already delivered entirely from the guilt of sin. You see that in versus one and two? And then you, you see the The thankfulness. Sorry, versus one through three and then you see thankfulness even for the current walking That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk.

So we consider those three things. This evening. Is thankfulness for the future benefits of union with rice. The battle with indwelling sin. Is actually designed to help us against. Are in dwelling sin. Isn't one of your worst remaining sins. Dear Christian. Here unthankfulness. This, isn't it true that whenever you stop, whether it's private worship?

Our family worship. Or public worship. Or even just god does something and he grabs your attention without good. He is being to you right now and you stop And you you go to lift up your heart and thanksgiving. And you realize How much there has been for you to be thankful for since the last time you actually felt thankful Well, do you see the love and the wisdom?

Behind. Giving you a desperate struggle. That constantly brings you to this. The this question who will deliver me from this body of death? And constantly brings you to this answer. I thank

god. Through Jesus Christ. Our Lord. Well, that's thankfulness for future benefit, the deliverance from the presence. Of sin.

That when we're done with this body, we are done with sin but there's also thankfulness for past benefits because although the battle is great, the greatness of the battle assures you that you're great. Guilt has actually been zeroed out. It's already zero. You see there's no such thing as partial forgiveness with God.

And since my condemning my own sin, And isn't that what you're doing? When you call your sin evil and God's law, good. You remember, we were recognizing back in chapter 7 and a little bit even back into to chapter 6, but especially in chapter 7. We've been recognizing that.

It's a fleshly way of thinking. To say God's law. Made me sin. And I used to think of God's law as the hard thing. And the sin is the thing that I liked But when God gives you life in Christ Jesus, that gets reversed, doesn't it? Suddenly God's laws the good thing and the sin.

Is the hard thing, the sin is the misery. Now, when you came to condemn your sin, That couldn't have come from you. Isn't that what we have been hearing especially the last two weeks in verses 13 through 25 of the previous chapter? Well, where did condemning sin come from?

Well, we can. Just look a couple of verses forward and verse 3 and say, oh, Jesus is the great condemner of sin. So, if I am hating my sin and calling it evil and wanting to get rid of it, Didn't come from me. That came from Jesus, the great hater of sin, the great caller of sin as evil.

The, the one who is getting rid of sin. So, since our condemning our own sin can only come from Christ's condemning sin and not from our flesh. We know that you we are united to him. And we know that we are completely given. I'm sorry, completely forgiven. He gives more evidence here in verse two.

He says there is therefore now. No condemnation already zero guilt zero wrath left. For those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the spirit in love of life in Christ, Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. What verse 2 describes? This being freed from the law of sin, and death can only happen if my condemnation is gone.

When he says the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus he's describing what he called the law of my mind. Remember last week last week, in verse 23 and verse 25 we looked forward To verse. Verse two and the law of the spirit of life. And we said the law of my mind.

Which the law that is in my members was against in verse 23. Or with the mind, I myself serve the law of God. How did that happen? How did I come to? To say with verse 12 of last chapter, the law is holy, the commandment is holy, and just and good.

You know, a Pharisee might have said, holy and just And he would have said good but he wouldn't amend. That the law does me good. He would have meant the law, shows how good I am. How do you come to chapter? Uh, to verse 16 of the previous chapter.

If then I do, what I will not do. I agree with the law that it is good. How do you come especially? To verse 22 of the previous chapter. I delight in the law of God. According to the inward, man. Well, the way you come to that is because the laws now in the hands of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, love for God's law, in your heart, delight in God's law, in your heart.

Can only come by the holy spirit? Love for god's. Law is a sure indicator that you are no longer dead. Delight in god's law in your inner. Being is a sure indicator of real spiritual life. And so, if the law, if god's good law in my mind and my heart, is being handled by the holy spirit.

Instead of by my sin. Remember what my sin did with god's law? That said, i want to send more But what does the holy spirit do with god's law? Does he not show us how good it is and give us a desire to obey it and desire to please God to kill sin.

Well that's the way this language is being used here. The law of the spirit of life in christ. Jesus has made me free from the law of sin. And death. The law is no longer being handled exclusively. By my sin. As a as a demonstration. That i am dead.

But if you're in the condition in verse 2, there's only one explanation because the law did not bring you into that condition. The law is holy and just and good. But it's also. Unable. It doesn't have the power. That's holiness and has justness and as goodness, but it did not have the power.

To free you from slavery to sin, did it? Only the holy spirit. Had that power? He gave you life. It gives you faith. You're joined to jesus, you become your beloved, he is yours and you desire to please him. You want to know where he goes. You want to know what he wants you to do.

See what the law could not do verse 3 and that it was weak through the flesh. God did. By sending his own son. And the likeness of sinful flesh. God's son is strong enough to condemn sin and is willing to condemn sin, and he did this both in his active and his passive obedience.

What does that mean? Was active, obedience is keeping god's commandments in our behalf. And in his passive obedience, he wasn't inactive. But he offered himself to suffer what came to him, what was done to him? On account of our sin. And so he condemned sin in the flesh when he obeyed in his human flesh.

And this obedience, we this obeying god's commandments, we refer to as his active obedience Some of us have felt. Our own sin condemned when someone else was obeying god's commands, haven't we? Because it's hard to be. The one who's sin is freely expressing itself, out of my heart and out of my lips and, and out of my hands.

And then To have. The the other person next to me. Who's actually obeying god's law? Even his obedience condemns me by comparison. And one of the things you'll find is that the more god grows you and love for him and holiness and obedience. The more unpleasant those who are not so growing, will find your company.

Even if you don't speak a word, don't have a sensorious thought towards them. They will still despise. They will still feel condemned. Well, every obedience that jesus offered continually in his life, condemned the corresponding sin. He perfectly contrasted. All of this, wicked world, by all of his full, love and full obedience to god in our behalf.

It's not just by his passive obedience by his dad, And we're thankful for his active obedience. It is by his act of obedience that we are able to walk according to the righteous requirements of the law. Because we're united to the lord, jesus, who didn't just Always live to god after his resurrection.

He always lived to god from conception to his death as well, didn't he? So, he is condemned sin in the flesh by his active obedience. He also condemned sin in the flesh by his suffering, For sin in human flesh. So he obeyed in human flesh and he suffered for sin in human flesh.

And this suffering is what we call his, his passive obedience, And we already know from what we have been hearing the last couple of months that it was by his suffering, the penalty of sin in our place that we could even be permitted to walk, according to the righteous requirement of the law.

You see the law? Demanded? What it demanded death. But it was in our union with christ. That, that demand was met. We were married. To sin. We were we were in bondage to sin. And in christ, in his suffering for sin, in our flesh, and our union with him, We died.

And we were freed from that marriage to use the language from earlier in the letter. So if we are joined to christ, we already have another body of sorts. We have another flesh that is a good flesh. Not ours, yet. Not our resurrection body. We do that, not have that that yet but we are joined To jesus who is still a flesh and blood, man, we get benefits.

From his humanity, his human flesh in which he, in which he obeyed, god perfectly, Does he not come to us at the table every week? And offer himself to us by faith, even as the bread has offered to our hands and our mouths. And he says, this is my body which is broken for you.

Then he's not there talking just about his body, which was once for all sacrifice. No, he's talking about the breaking of distribution at the table breaking bread together. But he doesn't distribute bread to us at the table. He distributed himself to us. And we receive the benefits of christ's human obedience, which he offered in a real human body with a real human soul.

And now we are united to him.

Jesus christ was made exactly like us with just one exception. There is no sin. In his flesh whatsoever. So union with christ is the key to having a psalm 119 mindset. Jesus is the original one, who loves god's law delights in God's law, meditates on his law day and night weeps streams of tears.

Because of how people break as long. You and i can only sing and pray and hope to walk according to psalm 119, if christ's own heart, christ's own mind is being worked out in our lives. You know, what's sweet about psalm 119. Jesus could only sing it in union with us.

Because there's all sorts of repenting. In Psalm 119. And talking about how we used to go astray one of our favorite, Settings that we sing someone 19W. We had gone astray, i have gone astray like a sheet. How could jesus sing that? That jesus ever go astray. Had jesus been disobedient before he was afflicted.

No. But he knew that his sheep had. And he came and he didn't just die for us. He also lived for us too. Didn't he? And so there's that sweetness of union with jesus throughout the psalms so many things. That we sing and pray in the psalms, oh, lord deal with me according to my integrity.

Who would want to pray that? If they didn't have union with the lord jesus, And so many things that jesus learned to pray and sing growing up, didn't he? That really? You know, psalm 32 51. 130. Why are those some of our favorites? Because we're such sinners. And we need that forgiveness.

And we rejoice over it. Well, jesus wasn't a sinner. But he was learning as he's saying. And prayed those psalms. What it would cost him. For us, not just to be forgiven. But for us to be able to walk according Into the righteous requirements of the law or to walk.

According. To his spirit. So, Jesus is the standard. For what we should do with our flesh. What Jesus did with his flesh, is the standard for what we should do with our flesh. What Jesus did with his flesh is the strength. By which we attempt. To follow him and imitate him.

With our own flesh. And what Jesus did with his flesh, gives us a certainty. That one day we will serve God perfectly. In a body. Not this one. This is the body of death. As long as you're in this body, you will not serve God perfectly. But there is a day of resurrection coming.

Not just a day of your death in which you'll be done with this body and done with sin. But there's a day of resurrection coming. In which your flesh. Will be conformed unto Christ's. And not just that, you will have a glorious body like is. But when you get that glorious body, It will be the first time.

You will have ever had a perfect soul. Holy soul. And physical flesh at the same time. Jesus is still condemning sin in our flesh, our sweet savior, hates the sin. That remains in us, he hates that sin out of love for us. So that we may hate it to.

As he does. So that we may hate our sin out of love for him who has so loved us. And even that we may hate. Our sin out of a right form of self-love. Desiring to be rid of sin. So that we may love Christ more. And so in the last place in verse 4, We are thankful in our present battle through union.

With Christ, we're thankful for future, deliverance from the presence of sin. We're thankful for past release forgiveness removal of guilts, so that we may even be permitted to fight this battle, but we're thankful in the battle itself. Not only because it reminds us about our future and our past.

But because the battling itself is something that Christ purchased by his blood, The battling itself is a blessing. That has come in union with Christ. That the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk, according to the flesh. But according to the spirit, So you walk according to the spirit and what is the spirit doing?

He's applying Christ to you. But how did you get the spirit to apply Christ to you? Well Christ, applied the spirit to you. He poured out his spirit. And so Jesus has poured out his spirit to his and his spirit applies Christ to you more and more through faith.

He grows you by the grace of Christ and by the knowing of Christ, And Jesus, pours out his spirit even as a flesh and soul, man. He won the right to do so by his blood and he ascended and took his seat and glory. And when he had ascended into heaven and taken his seat at the right hand of majesty, then he poured out his spirit.

This is a new experience for us. You see in the old covenant. The only way anyone ever came to faith was if the Holy Spirit gave them life to believe in the promised Christ. But they did not know that God the Son had died for them and taken his seat at the right hand of Manchester.

And they did not know that. It was God, the Son having taken his seat. I mean died for them and risen again and ascended and take his seat who had given them this spirit. You know, that dear Christian As you love God's law and want to walk according. Walk in.

Obedience to his law. You are walking according to a spirit whom, you know, was poured out on you by the very redeemer, who died on that cross. Isn't it marvelous? The Pentecost doesn't take place. Until Jesus is sitting there. So that you may know, That you're walking according to the spirit was given to you.

By the very one who died. On the cross. Who bled? From his hands and his head, his feet. Water and blood from his side. Who cried out with a loud voice? To show that he was. Not dying of mere expiration. But dismissing his spirit with his authority. That he had to lay down his life.

And he is the one. Who has given you the spirit. According to whom you walk now instead of according to your flesh. Are you looking forward to deliverance? From the body of this death. I pray that you are. And I pray that you are, therefore, employing, even the body of this death.

As much as possible in the service of Christ. Remember using every part of who you are as a slave offering it unto God as a slave for righteousness. Like we heard Chapter 6. Well, if you are doing that, then. You can look forward to your deliverance with great thanksgiving.

But all. How we rob ourselves of thanksgiving. If we aren't fighting the battle. If we're too busy serving the body of this death. Instead of employing it in, Christ's service. If our default pleasure, are the pleasures of this life. The pleasures of this body, not the pleasure of union with Christ.

Not I am my beloveds and he is mine. And then the thanks be to God for my future deliverance in the resurrection, or the thanks be to God for my past deliverance and no condemnation or the thanks be to God. That I am currently walking by the spirit, who is united me to my beloved.

What do we default to? For comfort. And pleasure. The answer to that question. May expose to us why our thankfulness is small. Employ your body in, Christ's service. And let the battle to do so. We're not saying it's easy. It's a battle. But let the battle to employ your body in Christ's service point.

You forward to the resurrection with great thanksgiving. So that you can respond to that future goodness. By presently. Reciprocating quite's love responding to his love for you. With love for him. Imagine.