

THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

TEXT:

Romans 8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from Law of Sin and Death.

There are natural laws in this universe which, if broken, you'll pay for it. You don't even have to believe in those laws, but they operate on you anyway. Let's illustrate:

The Law of Gravity

I don't have to believe in it if I don't want to, do I? I can defy it and reject it, and you know what will happen? My not believing it does not make it ineffective and/or inoperative. I could get on top of the church building and leap off saying, "*Here I go folks. That old law of gravity doesn't scare me*". You know what would happen? You'd see someone pick up a couple of bushels of bones and bloody flesh. The law exists whether I believe it or not.



The Law of Self-Preservation

Now, let's consider this law. Since food is so expensive, suppose I decide I'm going to quit that expensive habit. I might last 40 - 60 days, but that's all, for you would find me somewhere with my toes sticking up — a corpse! My not believing in the Law of Self-Preservation will have cost me my life. I would have to pay dearly.

Let's consider two other laws:

***The Law of Sin and Death, and
The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus***



The Law of Sin and Death are inseparable. The one cannot be broken without the other taking effect automatically. You commit sin, and sin will kill you. It did Adam and Eve, even though satan said it wouldn't happen . . . that it couldn't happen. They believed the devil's lies, and the law went into effect anyway, in spite of their not believing it would. Adam and Eve's unbelief in

the Law of Sin and Death did not make it ineffective.

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 2:4: These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

God set the standard in effect or operation, and also the penalty for disobedience of the law.

God says:

Thou shalt not commit adultery.
Thou shalt not steal.
Thou shalt not kill.
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
Thou shalt not covet.



Man's notion is that you are only punished if you get caught in the act. But not so with God. The law works automatically. Be sure your sins will find you out.

Numbers 32:23: But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

In Oklahoma City, it took the police four days of patient waiting to recover a stolen diamond ring even after they had discovered exactly where it was. The police found the ring by standing a Kansas parolee in front of an x-ray machine. The ring showed up clearly in the suspect's stomach. The parolee had been working as a plumber's helper in a fashionable Oklahoma City home from which the ring was stolen.

The jail still contains him who contained the ring — the Law of Cause and Effect.

A man in Flint, Michigan got mighty tired of having someone drain his gasoline tank almost nightly for two weeks, so he drained his own tank one night and filled it with water. The Sheriff's deputies booked a 17 year-old man on a charge of larceny after finding him beside his stalled car two miles from Smith's suburban home. Officers said Belford's



car wouldn't run on the goodly amount of water found in his tank. The article was entitled: "*Watered Down*".

Galatians 6:8: For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

If you desire, wish, or want to commit these sins, God says you have already committed them. For example, if you look upon a woman, wanting to commit adultery with her — or she with you — the Law of Sin and Death goes into effect. You — or she — are considered guilty of having committed the sin.

Matthew 5:28: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

All you have to do to commit adultery is to walk the street and lust after flesh as it wiggles and wobbles by, and you've been booked by God on charges of adultery.



The same applies to hate. If you hate your neighbor, the Law of Sin and Death goes into effect.

Matthew 5:21: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

All you have to do to be booked by God as a murderer is to hate someone, anyone. A man said, "*I still live in the flesh, and the flesh is prone to sin. My pastor told me not to worry about that, for when Jesus comes, that nature will all be changed.*"

Neighbor, I've got news for you. If that nature isn't changed now by the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, and if His Atoning Blood doesn't cleanse you from all unrighteousness, you'll be left behind when Jesus returns.

The Law of Gravity will have a bad effect on you then as it does now when you break it.

One of the lessons of history is — liberty depends upon respect for law. On this subject, we would like to recite some lines from Abraham Lincoln:

“I hope I am over wary; but if not, there is something even now that is amongst us – the disrespect for law that pervades the country, the growing disposition to substitute the wild furious passions in lieu of the sober judgments of the Court. I know the people are much attached to their government. I know they would suffer much for its sake. Yet not withstanding all of this, if the laws be continually despised and disregarded, if their right be secured in their person and property are held by not better tenure than the caprice of the mob, and the alienation of their affections from the government is the natural consequence. When I so pressingly urge a strict observance of all the laws, let me not be misunderstood that there are no bad laws, or that grievance may not arise. I mean to say no such thing. But what I mean to say is this; Bad laws, if they seem to exist, should be repealed as soon as possible. And still, while they continue in force, they should be observed.”



“No man is above the law”, said Theodore Roosevelt, “and no man is below it. Nor do we ask any man’s permission when we require him to obey it”.

All nature observes law. Life and every useful product are produced by law, and life must be lived by observance of laws. The plain fact is, if we only keep the commandments that are convenient, if we only keep those that are in accord with our appetites and inclinations, if we only keep the laws we like, there is no safety for anyone, anywhere, ever.

We believe that governments were instituted by God for the benefit of man, and that He holds men accountable for the good and safety of society. Thank God for law and for those who live by it, those who uphold it, and those who enforce it. Respect it, for therein is our peace of mind, and safety for time and eternity.



Jesus said:

John 13:34: A new Commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

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