

LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Chapter 7

The Analogy with Marriage

Romans 7:5 “While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death.” What does St. Paul mean by “living in the flesh?”

6 “But now we are discharged from the law, dead to that which held us captive, so that we are slaves not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.” What is meant by “held us captive?”

The Law and Sin

According to St. Augustine, why was the Law given?

Does the Torah only censure outward acts? What does the word covet mean?

The Interior Conflict between Good and Evil

“23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” What is meant by “the law of sin?”

Chapter 8

Life in the Spirit

How many times does St. Paul mention the Spirit in this chapter? Is the Spirit a necessary part of the New Covenant?

Ezekiel 36:27 “I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.” What does the prophet Ezekiel have to say about the Spirit?

9 “But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.”

What is meant by the “Spirit of God” and the “Spirit of Christ”?

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Future Glory

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

How does St. Paul’s discussion of sonship and suffering relate to the Exodus story?

Is suffering part of God’s plan? Why?

Is anyone predestined to eternal damnation?

God's Love in Christ Jesus

What is the relationship of the Father's surrender of Christ and Abraham's sacrifice? What is the relationship of Mt. Moriah and the City of Jerusalem?

“nor height, nor depth, **nor anything else** in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Is our eternal salvation assured?

Chapter 9

God's Election of Israel

How does the middle section of Romans (Chapters 9-11) contrast with the first 8 chapters?

What are some of God's covenant blessings bestowed on the people of Israel?

6 "But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel"

What is the difference between elect Israel and ethnic Israel?

What are some examples of divine selection and exclusion in the Old Testament before the founding of Israel as a nation?

What is meant by ¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."?

God's Wrath and Mercy

How do the following passages from Hosea and Isaiah foreshadow the combination of the Jewish remnant and the Gentiles as the New Israel?

²⁵ As indeed he says in Hosea,

“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’
and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’”

²⁶ “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’
there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’”

²⁷ And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the sons of Israel^[c] be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved,²⁸ for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”²⁹ And as Isaiah predicted,

“If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom
and become like Gomorrah.”

What is the meaning of the following passage as it relates to the stumbling stone?

³⁰ What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;³¹ but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness^[d] did not succeed in reaching that law.³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,³³ as it is written,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”