

Convicts, Christians, & Conviction

Romans 7:7-13

Intro: *"Mirror, mirror on the wall... whose the fairest of them all?"*

How do you feel about the mirrors in your life?

How "good" are the mirrors in your life?

Do you have "good" or "bad" mirrors around you?

What REALLY determines our relationship with mirrors???

The biblical Law is like a divine mirror that lets us see both the righteous standards of God and the woeful shortcomings of self...

Today's Passage 7:7-13: *God's Law... Reveals, Arouses, Ruins, & Reminds*

God's Law... Reveals SIN

Arouses SIN

Ruins SINNERS

**Reminds us of
SIN's SICKNESS**

T/S: REVIEW... vv.4-6 where we left off last week

***4** ...brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might **bear fruit for God**.*

***5** For **while we were in the flesh**, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to **bear fruit for death**.*

***6 But now** we have been released from the Law, **having died** to that by which we were bound, **so that** we serve in newness of the Spirit & NOT in oldness of the letter.*

T/S: Paul now anticipates the next question many of his readers would ask...
"Then why in the world do we even have the Law? Is it wicked? Is it sin?"

I propose to you this morning.... **God gave us His Law out of His Love!**

I pray you will see... **God's Law is every missionary's missional map & mirror**

God's Law is the Great Physician's Gospel prescription for God's sick kids...

LISTEN TO HOW GOD PUT IT... THRU THE PROCLAMATION OF PAUL...

7 What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be!

We are **NOT** to "eliminate," but **rather** to **EXEMPLIFY** God's righteous standards

God's Law Reveals Sin:

7b On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET."

God's Law **reveals the gap between your sinful status quo & God's R standards**

Deuteronomy 28:15-22: "However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. 17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. 18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. 20 The LORD will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him. 21 The LORD will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. 22 The LORD will strike you with wasting disease, with fever & inflammation, with scorching heat & drought, with blight & mildew, which will plague you until you perish.

Matthew 22:35-40: "One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36** "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" **37** Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**' **38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39** And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Note: **We live in loving relationship, not by lists of rules...
 BUT, the "both/and" principle applies...
 For our loving relationship has loving rules to guide us.**

God's Law reveals that which we won't relinquish to & in worship Jesus

***** VIDEO: "The Spirit Is Willing" (Eric Ludy)**

God's Law REVEALS the GOSPEL!

God's Law Arouses Sin:

8 But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind; for apart from the Law sin is dead.

Pilgrim's Promise... God's Law is like a broom in a dust-filled room...

Understand... God's Law is **not a "secret weapon"** of war... *but rather*
strategic blueprint of the battle-ground...

As we will see next week... **Life is a war... inside & out... period!**

***** VIDEO: "This Is War" (Paul Washer)**

God's Law AROUSES the Gospel call in God's children!

God's Law Ruins Sinners:

9 I was once alive apart from the Law; but when the commandment came, sin became alive and I died; 10 and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me; 11 for sin, taking an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

God's Law pronounces divine, eternal JUDGEMENT on Sin/Sinners...

God's unwavering Law says LOVE or LOSE... SURRENDER or DIE eternal

***** VIDEO: "Obsessed with Jesus" (Stephen Manly)**

***** God's Law tells us we're damned if we're not truly surrendered...**

The "Truth in Love" the Law points to can RUIN Satan's rule over you!

Qt: Jim Elliot: "Father, let me be weak that I might lose my clutch on everything temporal. My life... my reputation... my possessions..... Lord, let me lose the tension of a grasping hand... Rather, open my hand to receive the nail of Calvary – as Christ's hand was open... that I, releasing all... might be released, unleashed from all that binds me here."

God's Law Reminds Us of Sin's Sickness:

12 So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.
13 Therefore did that which is good become a cause of death for me? May it never be! Rather it was sin, in order that it might be shown to be sin by effecting my death through that which is good, so that **through the commandment sin would become utterly sinful.**

***** VIDEO: "Follow In My Footsteps" (K.P. Yohannan)**

Qt: Erik Ludy: "The **Irish Elk is now extinct**... It's head once stood over 10 feet high, with a rack of antlers that sprawled a majestic 12 feet across and another 5 feet skyward (can you imagine this 15' x 12' wall of Elk?)... By contrast, today, our domestic elk are literally one-fourth the Irish Elk's size..."

I'd like to draw a parallel between the Irish Elk and triumphant Christianity... Both roamed the earth in history past and both seem to have gone extinct in our modern day. Oh, we still have a less triumphant version of Christianity that can be observed today; however, it would seem that this modern species stands less than one-fourth the size of its might ancestor. It's Christianity minus the majesty...

For in an age where spiritual mediocrity is praised within the corridors of the Christian faith... there is a need for lion-hearted believers to emerge. Or should I say, 'Irish Elk' Christians to rise up!

All one must do is read the Bible to see how far we are from the stature of our Cross-purchased ancestry. But how do we get from where we are to where we ought to be? There is a very simply solution. There must be more of Jesus in our lives, in our families, and in our churches. More time given to Him in prayer and pursuit, more of our souls opened up for Him to rule and control..."

God's Law REMINDS us of the Savior's grace... the sinner's sorrow, and every saint's call to live out an ever-sanctifying life in-Christ... Amen!

CLOSE:

I pray you see the love that is laced into the Law... It is a majestic "map" that points you and me to our need for THE Savior..

***** God's Law is the magnifying "MAP" that points to the MESSIAH!**

Psalms 19:7-11 = *"The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."*

***** While God's Law cannot save you... it shows you the Savior who can!**

Qt: Major Ian Thomas: "The Christian life can be explained only in terms of Jesus, and if your life as a Christian can still be explained in terms of you - your personality, your willpower, your gift, your talent, your money, your courage, your scholarship, your dedication, your sacrifice... or your anything - **then although you may have the Christian life, you are not yet living it!** True Godliness leaves the world convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that the only explanation for you, is Jesus Christ."

Let's Pray!