

Day 19 ~ DEAD TO THE LAW

"Ye were made dead to the law, through the body of Christ."

*"Having died to that wherein we were [held by],
so that we serve in newness of the spirit."*

Romans 7:4, 6

The believer is not only dead to sin, but dead to the law. This is a deeper truth, giving us deliverance from the thought of a life of effort and failure, and opening the way to the life in the power of the Holy Spirit. **"Thou shalt" is done away with — the power of the Spirit takes its place.**

In the remainder of this chapter (7:7-24) we have a description of the Christian as he still tries to obey the law, but utterly fails. He experiences that *"in him, that in his flesh, dwelleth no good thing."* He finds that the law of sin, notwithstanding his utmost efforts, continually brings him into captivity, and compels the cry: *"O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"* In the whole passage, it is everywhere *"I,"* without any thought of the Spirit's help. It is only when he has given utterance to his cry of despair that he is brought to see that he is no longer under the law, but under the rule of the Holy Spirit (8:1-2). *"There is therefore now no condemnation,"* such as he had experienced in his attempt to obey the law, *"to them that 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."*

As Chapter 7 gives us the experience that leads to being a captive under the power of sin, Chapter 8 reveals the experience of the life of a man in Christ Jesus, who has now been made free from the law of sin and death. In the former we have the life of the ordinary Christian doing his utmost to keep the commandments of the law, and to walk in His ways, but ever finding how much there is of failure and shortcoming. In the latter we have the man who knows that he is in Christ Jesus, dead to sin and alive to God, and by the Spirit has been made free and is kept free from the bondage of sin and of death.

Oh! that men understood what the deep meaning is of Romans 7, where a man learns that in him, that is in his flesh, there is no good thing, and that there is no deliverance from this state but by yielding to the power of the Spirit making free from the power and bondage of the flesh, and so fulfilling the righteousness of the law in the power of the life of Christ! ♥