



FOR GROUPS MEETING: March 30- April 4

SERIES: Freedom

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

If someone were asked to say one word that describes America or what it means to be an American a common answer would be freedom. We live in a culture and a society that are obsessed with this idea of freedom. We have our freedom of speech and our freedom to protest. If you venture into the great state of Texas you will hear a lot about the freedom to bear arms. The trouble is that for a people obsessed with freedom we very rarely live free in our day to day lives.

In our series we are exploring how the Gospel frees us from a variety of things in our lives that would love to hold us captive. This week we will be specifically looking at how the Gospel frees us to overcome. We have been studying how the Gospel frees us from the control of sin but now we will see how we can overcome sin.

TO COMPLETE THIS WEEK'S STUDY

- You will need:
 - A Bible
 - A quiet place for prayer, reading, and reflection
 - A pencil or a pen
- Read the **Introduction to Study**.
- Move through the daily studies consecutively.
- Open and close each day in prayer.
- Meditate on each question as you feel led.
- Record your answers in the space to the right of each day's questions.
- If you miss a day, don't worry. Simply pick up where you left off.

Dig Deeper

Some people would like to go deeper in their study. If you would like to do so and have the time, please take advantage of the Dig Deeper sections of this Group Life lesson.



PASSION FOR GOD. COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE.

(day 1)

Prayer: Lord open my eyes to the freedom I have in Christ to choose to obey Jesus and to refuse to practice sin.

Intro: *For the passage we are about to read it is vitally important to understand the context of this chapter within the argument of Paul's letter to the Romans. In Romans 7 and 8 Paul teaches how we cannot overcome sin (through our efforts and trying harder before saying how we can (surrendering to the Spirit and letting Him work in us)).*

Read: Romans 7:1-6

1.) Most commentators agree that when Paul is speaking of the law in vv. 1-6 that he is referring to the obligation to keep the law to be righteous. Paul says we are dead to this; why does he say that?

2.) What analogy does he use to portray this? How does this help reinforce the point he is trying to make?

DIGGING DEEPER:

The book of Galatians is in some ways a beautiful parallel to this chapter in Romans. We will be looking at it in this section this week.

Read Galatians 5:1

How could this apply to what Paul is saying in these first few verses of Romans 7?



(day 2)

Prayer: God help me to understand what the purpose of your law was so that I might appreciate Jesus all the more.

Read: Romans 7: 7-12

Intro: *Paul is building on his argument from chapters 5 and 6 that to be in union with Christ is to be dead to all that overcame in His death, and alive to all that He secured in the power of His resurrection. He wants to clarify the purpose of the law and the way it shows us we need a savior by revealing to us how sinful we truly are.*

1.) Does Paul state that the law is sinful? What does he say is the purpose of the law?

2.) Paul states that he was alive before he knew the law but then when he received it sin came alive and he died. Remembering the purpose of the law in this context was to reveal sin to show our need for a savior, what is Paul actually saying?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Galatians 3:24

How does what Paul state about the law in this verse relate to what Paul says in vv. 7-12 of Romans 7?



(day 3)

Prayer: Lord help me to identify with and learn from the struggles of Paul as he sought to grow in Christ-likeness.

Intro: *Paul is now going to be talking about struggling with sin as we desire to grow more like Christ. The phrasing can get a little confusing at times so don't be afraid to re-read the passage a few times for better understanding and clarity.*

Read: Romans 7:13-20

1.) As Paul is walking through the struggle how does what he desires to do compare with what he actually does at times?

2.) Paul's point in writing this is to show that simply knowing what to do and trying hard to do it is not enough when it comes to wanting to grow more like Christ. Have you experienced this reality in your life?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Galatians 5:2-6

Paul speaks of trying to accomplish the law as a way to stay righteous.

He says it is futile before saying what our hope is. Where does Paul say our hope is found?



(day 4)

Pray: Lord help my heart to trust in your perfect provision for all my needs in Christ Jesus you and give up trying to live this Christian life on my own.

Read: Romans 7:21-25

1.) Paul's agony over this struggle is played out in the question he raises in verse 24. In what ways can you identify with the futility he experienced trying to live under the law and yet not sin? How does Paul help us see the utter hopelessness of fighting against sin in our own strength?

2.) Paul's agony over this struggle can be understood by what He has said but it also can be understood by what he hasn't. From verse 7- 24 who has not been mentioned? (hint look at verse 25) How does the exclusion and lack dependence on this person help us understand why Paul felt so agonized? Can you purpose to memorize and repeat these verses when you feel defeated by sin and need to recall that Jesus has defeated sin and given you His power to walk in newness of life?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Galatians 2:21

Paul reinforces what he says in Romans 7 with one verse here in Galatians.

What does he say?

How does it relate?



(day 5)

Prayer: Lord help me to walk in the freedom that I have because of my union with Christ, surrendered to Him as Lord as well as Savior of my life.

Read: Romans 8:1-2

Intro: *Paul profoundly resolves the tension he created in chapter 7 with the good news that the gospel of grace brings to hopeless sinners. The first two verses of chapter 8 especially make that clear.*

1.) What does Paul state in Romans 8:1-2? How is this different than the message of Romans 7 (think of the persons involved)? How does this speak emphatically to where our Hope is found?

2.) As Christians we all struggle to become more like Christ every second of every day. In this struggle where are you placing your hope for victory right now? In your efforts (Rom. 7) or in the power and victory of Jesus and the Spirit?

DIGGING DEEPER:

Galatians 5:16 speaks to the reality of what Paul is saying here.

What does Paul say will help us not sin (carry out the desire of the flesh)?

