

## RECREATION... NO MODIFICATION OF THE OLD

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**January 26, 2020**

Greetings Friends! It is a great blessing for me to come to you in this webcast today. I trust that this Sunday is going to be a blessing to you and that your heart will be just so encouraged by how God has made it very easy for us to share in His life. Let us just pray as we start this Service:

Father, thank You so much for Your love and Your grace. Thank You that You care for us. Thank You that You have come to give us what You have promised from before the world began... and that is Your life. You have come to adopt us to Yourself where we can feel the fullness of Yourself in every fiber of our being, our thoughts, our emotions, our feelings as well as in our bodies. Thank You for who You are and what You have come to give us.

I also want to thank You, Spirit of God, that You speak powerfully through me today and that life comes to the hearer. In Jesus' name! Amen

We are continuing our study on, "Everything is made new". This is a part of another series where we are basically going through Romans, verse by verse. I have the challenge in front of me of explaining, or teaching, through Romans chapter 7 which does have some very complicated, intrigued, or difficult concepts to talk about. It is different than what we are used to in our culture. I just trust that the Spirit of God gives all of us an understanding and enlightened mind as pertaining to this.

Last week we were talking about a new creation. We said that there is no change without a recreation or God making everything new. We saw that in **Galatians 6:**

***14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world was crucified unto me, and I unto the world.***

***15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.***

We've seen that the word, avail, there means to be strong in body, to be robust, to have power or to have the strength to overcome.

Paul is saying, and what we concluded last week, is that the only power whereby we can overcome death is by the power of a new creation. It means that God cannot fix the old. He has to remake the old into something that is a new creation... made brand new. Today we are going to talk about the inability of man to fix himself. We cannot fix ourselves. We cannot fix our mortality by trying to do things that pertain to life.

In other words, we can say we cannot fix ourselves by doing things that ascribed to God like love and kindness and goodness and patience and sharing of your life with others. By doing those things, we cannot fix ourselves. What we need and what will avail unto the strength of overcoming victorious power of God, what gives us that victory is a new creation. That's what it says. That's why Paul says, "I don't glory. I'm not going to say that I am a Jew and I have the law. The only thing that I glory in is in the cross of Jesus Christ which says that neither a Jew nor a Gentile, nor any man by his own power, can attain unto anything good. All people are sinners and Jesus took the sin of the world on Himself. He entered into the death of humanity. He entered into the death of the human being right there upon the cross and there we see that both Jews and Gentiles partook in seeing that He gets crucified. They worked together. They were all against Him.

We also see that Jesus entered mortality which is something that is possessed by Jew and Gentile. We see in Romans chapter 2 that both the Jews and the Gentiles were declared as sinners in what they did. They were given over to their own lusts and all those kinds of things. The Jews judged the Gentiles. They were busy with the very same things. What Paul is saying here is, "The only thing that I can glory in is, "I can say this: By my flesh I cannot attain to anything good. By my flesh, I cannot have life."

That is what he is saying here in **Galatians 6:14** *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world was crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*

There is a deeper understanding of this but what he is basically saying is, "I am dead to the whole system where I find life by having boldness in the fact that I am of the tribe of Benjamin or I am a Jew and have Abraham as my physical forefather and those things. The fact that we now have the law." He says, "I boast in the fact that I don't think of that anymore." The Jews were boasting in the fact that they were thinking that they were special people before God.

He says, "The reason for this is:

**:15 For in Christ Jesus** (In other words, as we are in Jesus and on account of this man, Jesus, who has made Lord of all) ***neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature*** (Your condition in your flesh cannot give you the overcoming strength. The only thing that gives it is a new creature.)

Then it says: **16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them,** So, what is the new law, the new, that we are under? It's that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision can give you the overcoming power. The only overcoming power that there is the new creature, the new creation. What Paul has in the back of his mind when he says this is the Spirit that makes us new, the Spirit that will also quicken our mortal bodies according to Romans 8. That is what he has in mind. That is why he says, "Those who walk according to this rule or this "new law of life" which is God recreating and bringing life to mortal bodies, that's the law of life: God bringing life to mortal bodies and as we are believing Jesus, we are married to life.

We are actually now the possessors of life. Since we are the possessors of life, the law of life brings forth the fruit of life in us. This is what this is saying.

Let us just summarize this. Paul is saying that it is impossible to avail to a power that overcomes or overcoming strength, or supernatural powers if you want to call it like that, or a power to a new life. It is impossible thinking that you as a mortal human can obey the law to do that. We count those things but as done. We forget about that. The only thing that can avail to a place where you overcome is the new creation.

We also said last week that this new creation is by God's act of recreating and not our act of making our own lives new. You know, when we live in this world, many times we tell people, "Man, you better change! Change your life. Become new!" How do you become new? Many times, we say that a person needs to change his ways. He needs to change what he does. What you're actually saying is, "Modify the old you. Take the old you and just change what you do." That is just a change of actions but it's not changing the fundamental problem.

The fundamental problem with man is that he is mortal. That is why, and we said last week, that the only power that can bring victory for humans is if people's mortality can be conquered. That is what Jesus Christ has done. God brought forth a human that never existed before when He raised Jesus from the dead. He brought forth an immortal human that is above sin, that's above death. Why? Because his flesh does not possess carnality, mortality. His flesh possesses the very life of God. That man was made Lord and He is now the ruler over the world to see that what's true in Him is true in whosoever believes in Him.

Now, that brings us to today's message. The point that I am trying to make and the objective of today's teaching is to tell you that you cannot modify the old man. You cannot modify the "old you". You cannot change the man that whenever you want to do good, you see that bad is with you. You cannot change that. It is impossible for you. What was needed, as we said last week, is a recreation of the human body into a body that does not possess mortality but that possesses immortality.

Who of us, by our own works, can produce a physical, undying body that is above sin, that cannot be tempted? Who can do that? Nobody! The more you know what is the right thing to do or how a good life looks or how a life that lasts forever looks, by looking at God, the more we tried to do that to get life, the more we find the reality of our mortality. Where Paul talks about the carnality of the human body where he has evil desires and things that is contrary to true life. What Paul is saying is that as long as what you are a mortal man and you are heading for the grave, heading for death, and you try to use your own ability to bring forth the life of God, the more you will just see that there is a law. There is a principal. There is something that you cannot get away from and that is the fact that you are bound to death. The only solution is a resurrection from the dead and only God can bring that forth! Amen

**Romans 6:**

**6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

**7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

If you read all of Romans 8, Paul also talks about the resurrection. Paul clearly says that the only way wherein we could be set free from the power of sin is through the death of that body of sin. That is what must take place.

**Romans 6:**

**1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?**

**2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?**

**3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?**

**4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

So, the life that Jesus lives today is on account of the life of God that raised Him from the dead. What it says here in Romans chapter 6, verse 6 onwards, you now see the context is the resurrection there.

**:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him** (Why was the crucifixion there?), **that the body of sin** (or the mortal body) **might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin** (be enslaved to sin).

**7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

He says that the reason why Jesus died and then, in the context there, if you read from verses 1-5, and was raised is so that the mortal body can be destroyed. I hope that you can see that. The problem we have is the fact that we are mortal. That is our problem. That is why we cannot modify the old man. All of us can find that in our bodies we are still mortal. We are awaiting the resurrection.

So while you are seeing grey hair, age in your eyes, any form of aging whatsoever, any form of mortality, while you see that in your body, it means the following: You are still in a condition where you cannot stop the power of sin in you. It is impossible! What we need is a new resurrected body and what God has done is He raised Jesus from the dead and showed us what that body will look like in the day that Jesus returns. But we who have believed, we have now received the Holy Spirit that has raised Jesus from the dead. That means the life that gives Jesus' body life is already in us. And as we rely upon Jesus, we find that the Spirit, this source of life, brings forth life in our bodies now. That's how we live a holy life.

As long as you are still seeing aging in your eyes or any form of aging, as long as you know that your body is part of mortality, you are not in a condition whereby you can solve the sin problem. You cannot. We, in our bodies, find that as we are mortal, we need God to end our immortality in the last day.

But now we have the first fruit, the first life of that already dwelling in us giving us a better life, giving us the fruit of the Spirit. But as long as you see this mortal life, listen, your body is still bound to that death and we are waiting for the adoption which is the redemption of our body. So, in this time where we are now, we are like in an in-between time. We see that God has done everything in Jesus to conquer death. Then the Spirit whereby He will make everything new in our bodies, is already poured out in us. We are already seeing the first signs of that life in us by love and peace and those things starting to manifest but we also live careful not to engage the body which is awaiting the bodily resurrection. So, we are careful that we don't engage the body which is awaiting the bodily resurrection. We are careful that we don't engage that body thinking we can now stop mortality in us by trying to do "good works". We know good works is not something we do to gain life. Good works is something that comes forth in us on account of the life that God has freely given.

What Paul tries to address in Romans chapter 7 is this: We try to modify our own lives. We are saying that we are Jews and now, as we are Jews, we are now, although we are dying, although we are dying people, part of the temporal world, or mortality, what we as Jews, are now going to live the good life. We are going to look at life or the law of Moses which points us to life. We are going to take the law and now we think that although immortal is no problem, we are going to solve our mortality by obeying the law. That is what Paul has in mind here and he likens this mortality that we are in, to a marriage. He says, "If you are married to somebody and you go and sleep with somebody else, you are now not automatically married to the new person that you were intimate with. No. you are still married to your first husband and by law you are married to that husband. What he is trying to say there is that we, as mortals, can liken our mortality to a marriage. He's speaking to what he wrote in Romans 7. Man, in his mortality, is married to death, but Christ died a physical death and was raised from the dead so that we will not now try and gain life by obeying the law but that we can be married to Him. That means to be joined to bodily immortality by the doing of the Holy Spirit.

What I am discussing today is somewhat difficult but in Romans chapter 8 we are going to get into easier things but we have to go through Romans 7 first. In Romans chapter 7 we find Paul actually just saying something in a very complicated way which is very simple.

### **Romans 7:**

***1 Know you not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?*** What is this law that has dominion over man for as long as what he lives? Romans 6:7 ***For he that is dead is freed from sin.***

What he is trying to say is when you are at a place where you are still serving God from your flesh, your mortality, and not from the power of the resurrected Spirit, where your confidence is in what you do as a Jew or as a Gentile that now thinks that when I am circumcised I became part of the Jewish people. Those who have confidence in their flesh, since your flesh is still dying, don't think that you are now going to bear fruit to life. No, you are still now engaging mortal flesh.

Jesus died so that we would have no confidence in our flesh but in the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead. What he is trying to say here is that we are not looking at Jew and Gentile anymore. That is what he is trying to communicate here. We are putting our trust in the Holy Spirit that raises us from the dead.

This is something that I can practically apply in my life every day. You know, in every day we will have good things happen to us and we will also have challenging things. I know what it feels like to have challenging things in my life. What happens when you see something that is challenging is you immediately want to say, "What's the right thing to do? What does the law say? I'm going to have life by doing all these right things." I am not saying that we should not do right things but my confidence is not in my flesh. My confidence is not in my ability. I know that this body, unless Jesus returns, is still subject to an intellect that doesn't understand everything, that doesn't know everything. It doesn't matter what the scenario is, all I'm going to say, "I cannot have life by my own works. Life is from the Giver of life. God gives me life in Jesus and I rest in Him."

As I rest in Him, He gives me thoughts and ideas and things to do which He then manifests by the power of His life in me and it always ends out in the victory of God's life which is peace in our hearts and in the end, we find the resurrection. Although this sounds very technical, it is not something that cannot be applied in everyday life. I walk by this, like Paul says, 'rule', every day. I cannot live by my own power. Although I might think that I am very intellectual, smart, or whatever, you try to use your mind and try and apply things. I want to tell you that, at the end of the day, you are going to find that death is manifesting in me. But, as you know that it's only by His life, you'll find life manifest in you.

### ***Romans 7***

***:2 For the woman which had an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he lives; but if the husband has died, she is loosed from the law of her husband (or of the law of husband).***

What he is saying here is that before the death of Christ, we were married to death. But, when Jesus entered death and was raised, we now see that there is another way to life. Since death was conquered, we are not standing in the power of our mortality anymore but we are standing in the hope of the resurrection. Since we believe upon that, we are not walking under the power which forces us, every day, to have sin and death in our lives. Jesus conquered sin and death for us. Amen

***:3 So then if, while her husband lives, (sin in the flesh on account of its mortality) she be married to another man (the law of Moses in trying to do the good by the inner man or Jesus as the Messiah of a fleshly people group), she shall be called an adulteress:***

When it talks about marriage here, it is not saying that we are literally married to the law. He is using an analogy. He is saying that if you are a mortal and you stand in the power of mortal flesh, and you try to use life, you're going to see that you are still bearing the fruit of death in you. That's all he is saying.

It's a very complicated way of simply saying, "Listen, as long as you are a normal human being and you try to live by the law, you're going to find that what your flesh truly is, which is dying, is manifesting in you. You're going to find all these evil desires and all those things come forth in you and you will not be able to control it. But, if you have no confidence in your flesh, but in the One who has conquered the death of the flesh, and in the flesh of Jesus as the One that rules over you, you will find that that death dies away. Sin dies away and you find good fruit in your life.

**:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, you ALSO are become dead to the law* (now referring to the law of Moses) *by the body of Christ; that you should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.***

He is saying that Jesus died and through His death we are now at the place where we don't have to say, "I'm a Jew. I am a Gentile. And I am going to walk by the law because if I say that, there is a law in my members, in this body there's the principle that says that you are mortal and that is what will be in the end, mortality, temporal, that's all there will be. You are going to die. But, now that Jesus is raised from the dead, we don't have any confidence in Jew/Gentile or anything. We have confidence in the resurrected Jesus and He who knows how to aid our weakness. He knows how to give us life. Therefore, He poured out the Spirit of promise or the Spirit of life whereby we have life. Glory to God!

I think I am about to wrap this up for today because, if we get into this deeper, we are starting to touch on a different point and I think I need to talk about that next week. Let's just wrap this up.

**Rom. 7:**

**4 *Wherefore, my brethren, we ALSO are become dead to the law* (now referring to the law of Moses) *by the body of Christ; that we should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.***

**5 *For when we were in the flesh* (married to death in the flesh), *the motions of sins, which were* (revealed, made manifest) *by the law* (of Moses), *did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.***

**6 *But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held;***

In other words, we are delivered from the principle that says you shall, for sure, bring forth fruit unto death. We have been delivered from that through the death and the resurrection of Jesus through the new creation and we can see we cannot modify the old.

The point I want to make here is this: You cannot modify the old. You cannot say, "Well, I'm going to mortify my mortal flesh and sin in the flesh by trying to live a holy life. I cannot do that! That is impossible. I needed a bodily recreation from the dead and that is what God has provided. What that recreated body brings, and the new creation which is above death, not mortal, gives us, is the hope of the same in God fulfilling His promise of eternal life to whosoever believes Him through the man Jesus. Amen.

Let me explain it this way: God promised us eternal life. Man is mortal. God brought forth a man, Jesus, through whom He will fulfill what He has promised us. So we that see this resurrection already, what do we do? We stop putting our confidence in the flesh and in the law and we put our confidence in the one raised from the dead. As we put our confidence in the one raised from the dead, what happens? We are standing in the union of the life of His flesh and then we start to see how the deeds of sin is mortified in our flesh and how we start to live a holy life. That is what Paul is trying to communicate in these passages. Glory to God!

In conclusion, you cannot modify your dying self by trying to live by the law. Don't do that! Let's make it very practical: If you see anything in your life that is not supposed to be there... anger, lies, fear, any depression, sexual immorality, drunkenness, whatever you struggle with, a fear of not having money, whatever it is, don't think "Well, I need to modify this body." No, you cannot modify. The only thing you can do is to see your union with life through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The true context of this was the law of Moses and the Jews and all those kinds of things. If you are a Jew hearing this, don't find any confidence in the fact that you are a physical descent, you are Jewish, and that you now think that because you are a Jew, God is going to do something special for you because you are a Jew. The moment you say that, you have put your confidence in the flesh and you stand in your union with the flesh and that is your righteousness. "I've got a right to be helped because I am a Jew. I've got a right to be helped by God because I'm a Jew." No, that is not how it works. It will worsen your situation.

What you do is you see the resurrected Jesus and you say, "I have no confidence in my own ability. I've got no confidence in my flesh. I've got no confidence in my ability to keep the law. I have seen that the more I try to keep the law, the more I fall into death and destruction. All I do is I say, "As the man Jesus was raised from the dead, He's put me at a place where I can trust Him and not my flesh." And as you do that, you find life in you. It doesn't matter what the situation is. If I look at my own self, at my own life, you know sometimes things happen in this world that is outside of your control. And you think, "That's not right! What's right is this and this and this, following things. So, I'm going to see what's right and I am going to use my power to do what's right and set this right." Then, you find that it doesn't work.

The best thing you can do and this is what I do every day of my life: God has given me life and life is greater than death. Because God has raised Jesus from the dead and broken the power of death over my life, I am confident in Him. He sorts my life out and then I rest in Him!

Just let the concept of the Resurrection and the truth of it be the rule whereby you live. Amen. God bless....