

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 8:1-3A

- **A Glimpse of Hope: v. 1**

The end of chapter seven: “Who will save me from this body of sin” – and now he tells us “Who”. The beginning of verse 8: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...”

Christ is the “who” of our deliverance.

- **A Change In Pronouns: v. 2**

First ... “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Now ... “... Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”

Paul is clearly indicating that this has been his own, personal experience.

- **The Means of This Liberation: v. 2**

The “Law of the Spirit of Life”. Paul has used of the word “law” in two different ways in Romans. Now he adds a third “law” to the redemption story.

1. He has used “law” to describe the Mosaic Code. 2. He added “another law” to describe the power of sin in the inward battle for lawful behavior. 3. He gives a third “law” – the “Law of the Spirit of Life” in Christ. Paul’s overall meaning: “The principle or power”.

A Progression of “Laws” in Romans: 1. The law of sin and death condemned us. 2. The “another law” doomed us to failure in the battle of obedience. 3. The law of the Spirit gives us freedom.

- **A New Law: The Same Giver: v. 3A**

3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did ...”

The very first and fundamental assertion: God did something. Another progression: God gave the Mosaic Law: See, Hebrews 12:18-24. We call it the Law of Moses, but it really isn't; it's the Law of God.

God who gave the Law in all of his terrible glory has now taken the initiative to do what the even the Law could not do; make its followers justified.

- **Why Did the Mosaic Code Fail?**

The Mosaic Law was glorious, It was amazing. It was a righteous and holy Law. So why did it prove so inept? “It (meaning the Law) was weakened by the sinful nature.”

John Stott: “The law's impotence is not intrinsic.” He's right: In its purposes, the Law was powerful; In practice, it was weakened by the power of sin in each of us.

So, what the weakened Mosaic Code could not do, **God did for us** – in His Son. God originated a new era. In both cases, God is at the center of the story – NOT US!

Next Time: Five phrases that fully explain the new approach.