

FORGIVEN & FREE



from Romans, a letter in the Bible

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

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Title: Jesus, our great deliverer

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Speaker: Paul Hatton

Site: City West

Bible reference: Romans 7

Overview

In Romans 7, Paul explores the purpose of the law and our inability to meet God's standard. Romans 8 then unpacks what life 'in Christ' looks like - resting in the one who fulfilled the law. Through this passage we will see that we are dead to the law, identified as sinners and that trying harder is fruitless. The good news is that Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law and therefore became our great deliverer!

Dead to the law, alive to Christ

- Read verses 1-6 - What does this section teach us about our relationship to the law?
- Romans 8 covers being alive to Christ - to provide balance to being dead to the law, it might be worth discussing how we are alive in the spirit, and subject to the law of Christ.

Identified as sinners and trying hard proves fruitless

- Read verse 7 - What is the purpose of the law?
- Verses 8-23 could be interpreted as Paul describing a believer's experience. Alternatively, it could be Paul describing his own experience pre-conversion, as a Jew who was trying to keep the law to keep right with God. The talk assumes the latter. *Feel free to discuss the merits of each but try and avoid to deep a dive on this as you may become sidetracked from the overall point Paul is trying to make: we need Jesus to save us!*
- Read verses 8-23 - Discuss how Paul feels, having tried to be saved by the law.
- Encourage people to share their own experiences of trying to be saved by doing the right thing. This could either be pre-conversion or slipping into a legalist mindset as a Christian. Has trying harder worked?!

Jesus: our great deliverer

- Read verses 24-25 - ASK people to share their own experiences of coming to the conclusion of being "wretched".
- How does Christ deliver us from this? Here are some answers:
 - He fulfils the law perfectly: Romans 8:3-5
 - He delivers us from the sting of death
 - He delivers us from the fear of death