

The Deceptive Power of Sin

(Rom 7:10-11)

- Paul's main argument in this section is that a believer cannot be sanctified by the law any more than he could be justified by it
- This would be the natural conclusion for a lawyer (legalistic person) to draw, that being justified, he could now take up the law

I. Terms

A) "I found"- Proved out, concluded, arrived at

1. This doesn't mean that a careful search was conducted
2. It is describing the effect of the "coming of the law" to Paul
 - i. "It turns out" or "the end result was"

B) "The commandment ordained to life"

1. This cannot mean attaining unto "life" by law keeping
 - i. We are to take scripture at its face meaning unless that causes a contradiction
 - a) This would contradict not only Paul's other writings, but direct statements in this same epistle
 - 1) Rom 3:19-20
 - b) This would also completely destroy Paul's entire argument here
 2. Paul is referring here to the law in and of itself, apart from the effects of sin
 - i. Rom 7:12- The law is holy, just and good
 - ii. Rom 10:5- The man that doeth the law shall live by it
 - a) The law defines a righteous life, a life pleasing to God
 - 1) Ex 19:5- "IF you obey....."
 - 2) Lev 18:5- "If a man do, he shall live"
 - 3) Deut 6:25- "It shall be our righteousness, IF we keep..."
 - 4) Luke 10:25-28- "This do and live"
 - b) But Paul's point is that sin entered, and not only makes righteousness by the law impossible, but actually misuses the law to increase sin
 - 1) Rom 8:3- "What the law could not do....."
 - 2) Gal 3:21- "For if righteousness had been by the law..."
 - 3) Gal 2:21- "If righteousness by law, Christ died in vain"

C) "Slew me"- It led to death in my case

1. The law killed Paul's own righteousness
 - i. The Jews thought they were keeping the law and earning righteousness
 - a) Rom 9:31-10:4- Going about to establish their own righteousness
 - 1) "Stumbling stone"- the wrong use of the law

- (a) Through wrong use, the law once again was turned to bad use by the Jews as it had been rendered harmful by Adam
 - (b) 1 Tim 1:8- Law good if used lawfully
 - 2. Rom 8:2- Summary statement of ch 7
 - i. The commandment ordained unto life became the law of sin and death as a result of the fall of Adam
- II. Rom 7:11- “For”- an explanation of v.10
 - A) Why does Paul repeat this so much?
 - 1. There is not a more important doctrine in the entire bible than the doctrine of “sin”
 - i. We will not understand anything in scripture if we do not understand the truth concerning “sin”
 - ii. Sin is the problem always
 - iii. All the worlds issues come down to “sin”
 - B) V.11 is repetition, but Paul adds something new
 - 1. “Sin deceived me”
 - i. Deceived- *exapatao*- completely deceived me, blinded me totally
 - ii. Rom 7:8- “Sin wrought powerfully” (emphasizing its power)
 - iii. Rom 7:11- “Sin deceived me” (emphasizing its subtlety)
 - a) Gen 3:13- Serpent more subtil, beguiled Eve
 - b) 2 Cor 11:3- “As the serpent beguiled Eve.....”
 - c) 2 Thess 2:7-12- The mysterious delusional power of sin
 - d) Heb 3:13- “The deceitfulness of sin”
 - 1) In spite of every action of man, every law, movement, education, technology, etc., sin still marches on
 - 2. How does sin use the law to deceive?
 - i. By deceiving us to misuse the law
 - a) “It’s only the actions that count, thoughts don’t matter”
 - 1) Phil 3:4-7- Thus Paul believed himself blameless under the law
 - 2) This because he never understood the 10th commandment
 - ii. By deceitful condemnation
 - a) “I’ve already broken it, what’s the use, it’s all hopeless anyway”
 - iii. By deceitful antinomianism
 - a) Sin comes as an angel of light and presents itself harmless, even good
 - 1) “Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound”
 - 2) “We’re not under the law, but under grace”
 - iv. By deceitful creation of antagonism to law
 - a) Gen 3:1- Did God keep this from you?
 - 1) “God is overly harsh, a ruthless tyrant”

- 2) “God is against me”
 - v. By deceitful reasoning against the law
 - a) “This is unreasonable, unjust”
 - 1) Thus we resent law, hate it, rebel against it and desire to do wrong
 - vi. By deceiving us about ourselves as man
 - a) “You’re man, meant to be free, autonomous”
 - b) “You are the top of the food chain, meant to govern self
 - vii. By deceitful use of “nature”
 - a) “These are all natural desires, it’s in you, express yourself!”
 - b) “God made me this way”
 - c) “You’ve got to love yourself”
 - viii. By deceiving us about sin itself
 - a) Makes sin look attractive
 - 1) Gen 3:6- “The woman saw the fruit, that it was good....”
 - 2) 2 Cor 11:13-15- Satan transforms into angel of light...”
 - (a) “How could God prohibit something that looks so good, or feels so good?”
 - (b) “The Christian life is without joy, drab, unfulfilling”
 - ix. By deceiving our thoughts concerning the consequences of sin
 - a) Gen 3:4- “You shall not surely die”
 - b) 2 Pet 3:1-11- “Where’s this judgment we’ve been hearing about?”
 - 1) “God is love, there is no wrath”
 - 2) “Hell is an invention of the Puritans”
 - 3) “All roads lead to heaven”
- C) All of these deceptions prevent the law from doing its proper work of condemning the “old man”
1. Eph 4:17-18- Sin darkens our understanding of all things
 - i. It prevents right thinking about God
 - ii. It prevents right thinking about self
 - iii. It prevents right thinking about the “world”
 - iv. It misrepresents and distorts everything
 - a) It is the “veil” of flesh that blinds man to all things, like looking through colored lenses, nothing can be seen in its true light
 - 1) 1 Cor 2:14- “The natural man receiveth not the things of God”