

The Prelude to Romans 7

Understanding the Apostle Paul's teaching on LAW

Fred R. Coulter—February 1, 2025

This will be a good introduction as to why we need the Old Testament as well as the New. You can't understand the things in the New Testament unless you understand certain things in the Old Testament. You cannot understand Rom. 7, because it uses the word *law* 20 times.

We will see that it is talking about different kinds of law. This is the chapter that all the Protestants and the Catholics use, if they approach it. They come to the one verse that says you are released from the law; therefore, you don't have to keep anything. Well, they don't know what that means.

So let's come here to Rom. 7, then we will look at some overall things, which are very important for us to understand. Because you can't take a single verse in isolation ***and create a whole doctrine that is not true.*** Well, they can do it, and that's what they do. They don't understand.

Romans 7:1: "Are you ignorant, brethren.... [this is something you really need to understand] ...(for I am speaking to those who **know law**)..." ***No definite article there!*** That means God's Law, in this case, also all law concerning everything.

"...that the Law rules over a man for as long a time as he may live?" (v 1).

Now, that's quite a verse! Look at what happens when the law was broken when that airplane carrying the 67 people plus the crew went down (regarding the airplane crash at Reagan Airport) Remember when you're coming in for landing on a plane, what is the last command that the stewardess tells you? *'We're getting ready to land and tighten your seat belt.'*

Then what does she do? *She goes up and down the aisle and makes sure that everyone has the seat belt on!*

If everything was run right, or according to the laws of the flight pattern at the airport, everything would have worked, because they that's one of the most busy airports in America.

Now then, they suspect, but they don't know, that the operator of the helicopter may have been part of DEI. But either way, it doesn't matter; it did not fly in it's proper altitude in relationship to other incoming planes. So, *the law was broken!* The law of flying in and out of that airport was broken! The law ruled over all of them and they died.

The truth of the matter is that ***everything***—which God has created—***must operate by law and truth!*** Everything in our lives operates by law. Whether a small little thing, if you drop something on the floor, the law of gravity pulled it down to the floor. You didn't hold on to it, so it fell. That's just a little example of something close at hand. *There is law in everything:*

- what you see
- what you hear
- what you eat
- how you act
- what is your life

Look at your body; look at all of the laws that are in the body:

- your heart
- the blood
- the lungs
- the ears
- the eyes
- the mind
- the legs
- the feet

All of those must be working together properly for you to be in good health!

If they're not a little thing like a headache, your body is telling you something's wrong. Same thing when you have a stomach-ache or a gut-ache or you strain a muscle. Or like I did recently, I fell down hit my right knee full weight on the concrete. The law of standing up and walking properly was broken, and I fell and the punishment was an injured knee.

Now, think about that in relationship to life. Everything that we do follows law, and we'll see that there's something else that is added to it. Let's come here to John 4 and see about our relationship with God. Then we'll go back and we will look at the background leading up to Rom. 7 so we can understand it properly. Here's what Jesus said to the woman at the well:

John 4:21—"Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you shall neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem worship the Father.'"

Now, this comes to ***the knowledge, truth and laws spiritually of worshiping God!***

When we get into Rom. 7, we're going to find it talks about that.

Verse 22: "You do not know what you worship...."

- if you worship an idol, you don't know what you're worshipping
- if you worship on the wrong day, you don't know what you're worshipping

All of those things, *when they are not right and are not true*, become sin. **All sin is the transgression of the Law!**

All difficulties and problems come because people do not operate their lives correctly. Now, it may be small things; it may be large things.

Verse 23: "But the hour is coming, and now is, **when the true worshipers...**"

- What does that tell you? *If you have **true worshipers**:*
- What do you have on the other side of that? *False worshipers!*
- What is a false worshiper? *One who pretends to worship God **while not doing what God says!***

That's simple! Sometimes these difficult verses when we get into Rom. 7 actually become very clear when we get to all the background on it.

"...true worshipers shall worship the **Father in Spirit and in Truth...**" (v 23)—*from the inside of the depths of your mind, converted is what Jesus is talking about in Spirit, and in Truth! And everything that we do has:*

- truth
- right or wrong
- good or evil
- good or bad

and you can have some things

- in between

Just to use an example of something in between: You have a car that the tire is low on air. That's in between proper air and a flat tire. So you put the air in it and you bring it back up to what it should be.

It's the same thing spiritually. In loving God and keeping His Commandments and living by Truth and Righteousness, there are small things and there are large things. There are important things and there are things not so important, but necessary.

"...worship the **Father in Spirit and in Truth** for the Father is indeed seeking those who worship Him in this manner" (v 23). *God wants to know!*

Steve mentioned there—in his message: The Parable of Leaven—about **the called, the faithful, and the elect!** There are degrees of it. People out in the world have degrees of good and evil.

When everything is good, things work properly. **WHEN** everything is DEI—**Devil Enters In—THEN** you have a lot of problems like we have today. Here's the reason:

Verse 24: "God is spirit, and those who worship Him **must...** [obligated] ...**worship in Spirit and in Truth.**"

From your **whole heart**, your **whole mind**, everything that you do! There are degrees of it as Steve brought out in *growing in grace and knowledge!*

Now let's look at something else. Let's see how sometimes when God is seeking something that is very difficult to find. Remember what God said—just before He flooded the world—about the thoughts of man. *Every thought of everyone was only evil continually!*

Now, we're not told how bad that was. But for God to flood the whole world and destroy everything, which is kind of like *a mass baptism of the earth* to get rid of evil, it must have been pretty bad.

Only Noah found grace! And because he found grace, his wife and his children and their wives came in on the 'apron strings' of Noah. Now we have the world today.

Gen. 12 becomes important in understanding Rom. 7. All of those Protestants and Catholics who say you don't need the Old Testament.

Well, like Steve brought out, **IF** you are Christ, **THEN** you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise! That's quite an amazing statement, isn't it? Christ and Abraham separated by 3500 years!

- Do we need to understand Abraham? *As we will see for Rom, 7, yes, we do!*
- Do we need to understand what God did with Israel? *For Rom. 7 we'll need to understand that, so we will!*

So here's the whole world, Gen. 11 building the tower, going again after all of the sins before. So, God changed their languages, scattered them on the face of the earth.

As it says there in John 7, **God was seeking!** So, here we have God seeking for one man. I want you to think about that in relationship to where we are today. A lot of us are scattered because of the circumstances in the world and the circumstances in the Church. The circumstances in the Church

became those things *which were not good and NOT done in Spirit and in Truth!*

God had to destroy it and scatter the brethren. Well, same thing in Gen. 11. God had to change all of their languages so they couldn't continue in the evil that they were doing and scattered them to their inheritance over the face of the earth.

God was looking for one man, one person, and here's what we find in Gen. 12: *God always gives a test* Commandment. When you first start encountering God, there's always *a test*:

- Will you **believe** Him?
- Will then you **obey** Him?

Then you have to grow in *grace and knowledge* to love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being. So, here we have the first step.

Genesis 12:1: "And the LORD said to Abram, 'Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house into a land that I will show you. And I will make *of you* a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. **And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed**'" (vs 1-3).

Now, that's quite a statement! This one thing right here in these first three verses *stretches everything out into the rest of the Bible!* And it becomes very important for us to understand when we come to Rom. 7.

We will see how Abraham's life comes forward for us as an example, and that Paul uses that in Rom. 7.

Gen. 12:3 tells us that God, *Who is eternal*, thinks way ahead into the future.

Genesis 12:3: "And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed."

That wasn't limited to the time of Abraham, but that was a promise that God would give to Abraham, but He wanted to see what Abraham would do; that's why God said: "Get out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house into a land that I will show you" (v 1).

Gen. 15—ten years later when Abram was 85-years-old, and here's a most important chapter, because it follows this way; God always does this:

- promise
- covenant
- covenant fulfillment

Understanding the covenant will be key to understanding Rom. 7!

Genesis 15:1: "After these things the Word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, 'Fear not, Abram, I *am* your shield and your exceedingly great reward.' And Abram said, 'Lord GOD, what will You give me since I go childless...' " (vs 1-2).

There was a law that if you had a leading servant and you were childless, you could adopt that leading servant and he could become your heir.

Abram said, 'Let Eliezer do it.' But God said, 'No.'

Verse 4: "And behold, the Word of the LORD *came* to him saying, 'This man shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own loins shall be your heir.'"

Think about how all human beings have come to be—from the smallest speck of begettall from the father, an egg from the mother; then development within the womb of the mother—are *their* children. **Think of that; think how far out into the future that God is thinking! That is all eternity!**

So, here's what God did; v 5: "And He brought him outside and said, 'Look now toward the heavens and number the stars—if you are able to count them.' And He said to him, 'So shall your seed be.'"

How much did Abraham have faith? We will see a little later on: *in his lifetime, he only saw Isaac and Jacob as a baby before he died!* That's an amazing thing to understand! **The promise will not be fulfilled until the first resurrection!** Then everything during the Millennium will proceed also from that. This is how great this promise is.

What we have in Gen. 15 is the covenant. God gives the covenant, we accept it, then God gives the sacrifice of the covenant.

Verse 6: "And he believed in the LORD. And He accounted it to him for righteousness."

Verse 9: And He said to him, 'Take Me a heifer of three years old, and a she-goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.'"

And Abram took all of them to himself, divided them down the middle. That's from head to tail that be opened it up, and there would be a path between the two halves of those animals.

The One making the covenant, Who is God, must walk through those parts of the animals. Because with a covenant, the sacrifice comes **first** as a pledge that you will do it. A covenant is **binding until death** from the start of the covenant.

That's important to remember. Then we find here in:

Verse 12: "And it came to pass, as the sun was going down, that a deep sleep fell upon Abram. And, behold, a horror of great darkness fell upon him!" *A type of death!*

This is actually on the Passover Day, what would become the Passover Day? This is a prophecy of God *by His action to show that He would come in the flesh and be the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world! This was a tremendous thing!*

Verse 13^[transcriber's correction]: "And He said to Abram, 'You must surely know that your seed shall be sojourners in a land *that is* not theirs (and shall serve them *and they shall* afflict them) four hundred years. And also I will judge that nation whom they shall serve. And afterward they shall come out with great substance. And you shall go to your fathers in peace. You shall be buried in a good old age'" (vs 13-15).

So there it was! What happened when God walked through between those animals, there was a great fire that came—a burning lamp and a smoking furnace—and it burned up all of those sacrificial animals to ashes!

So, God made His covenant, and Abraham had to be faithful to God. Abraham was promised that he would have a child from his own loins. Well, that didn't happen until he was 99. Ishmael was a mistake of his wife Sarah.

Genesis 18:10: "And He said, 'I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and lo, Sarah your wife *shall have* a son.' And Sarah heard at the tent door, which was behind Him. Now, Abraham and Sarah *were* old, *well* advanced in days, and it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women" (vs 10-11). *So, she laughed!*

But nevertheless, what does God do to show His power? *He does what to human beings is impossible!* But to God, *nothing is impossible!*

Then she bore the child—Isaac—and weaned him when he was 3-years-old.

Gen. 22—here is an extension of Abram's trial and his test concerning his faith in God, that God would do what He said He would do.

This is a great lesson for all of us in the New Testament time, because we're living in the time when God is currently fulfilling what He said to Abraham.

Here's what Abraham was to do. He was to take Isaac, who was probably about 15 at that time, go to one of the mountains of Moriah and offer him as a burnt offering to God.

He went, he had servants go with him. He took a firepot, wood and everything. They came where they were to go. Then Abraham took Isaac and was going on up to the place for the offering.

Genesis 22:6: "And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it upon Isaac his son... [a type of Christ carrying His cross] ...And he took the fire *pot*... [you don't carry fire in your hand] ...in his hand, and a knife. And they both went together. And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father.' And he said, 'Here I *am*, my son.' And he said, 'Behold the fire and the wood. But where is the lamb for a burnt offering?'" (vs 6-7). *This was a test, because Abraham was told to offer Isaac as a burnt offering.*

- Would he really, *really, really believe God* and come to the point of doing it?

or

- Would he be mad at God?

or

- Would he count God righteous enough that if he did it, that God could raise Isaac from the dead? *Like it says in Heb 11!*

The latter!

Verse 8: "And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.' So, they both went on together. And they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. And he bound his son Isaac and laid him on the wood, upon the altar" (vs 8-9).

What kind of altar is that? *That is unhewn stone, large stones!*

Now in the time with the children of Israel, because there were 12 tribes, when they had to sacrifice without the temple, they used 12 stones. We're not told how many stones were used here.

"...And Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. And he bound his son Isaac and laid him on the wood, upon the altar. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son" (vs 9-10).

Sometimes God doesn't rescue or help until the last minute, and that's what He did here. Because everything else in God's Plan hinged on Gen. 15 & 22. *The covenant was sealed by God!* Abraham's obedience at this point finalized the covenant of Gen. 15.

Verse 10: "And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called to him from the heavens and said, 'Abraham! Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I *am*.' And He said, 'Do not lay your hand upon the lad, nor do anything to him, **for now I know that**

you fear God..." (vs 10-12).

Now how long had this been? *Twenty-five years from the time of Abraham's calling until this!* Twenty-five plus fifteen is forty. So, it was 40 years that God tried him and tested him.

- What would he do?
 - Would he believe Me?
 - Would he obey Me?
 - Would he follow Me?
- ✓ Doesn't that sound a lot like our lives?
 - ✓ Do we believe God? *Yes!*
 - ✓ Will we obey God continually? *Yes, we need to set our minds to do so, even when there are things that are difficult to do!*

Because God is going to give us eternal life! He's not going to give it to those:

- who are sinners
- who do not repent
- who think that their way is going to bring to themselves the promise of God

*The promise of God only comes **God's way**, which Gen. 22 shows us!*

"...for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me" (v 12).

Only son through Sarah. He had a son before that: Ishmael.

- What was Jesus? *The only Son of God the Father!*
- What was His sacrifice to do? *Pay for the sins of the whole world!*

So, here's a type of it! A substitutionary sacrifice was provided so that Isaac would not die.

Verse 12: "And He said, 'Do not lay your hand upon the lad, nor do anything to him, **for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.**' And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram was entangled in a thicket by its horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son" (vs 12-13).

This becomes very important, right here: ***This sealed the covenant!***

- God's part was Gen. 15
- Abraham's part, along with Isaac, was Gen. 22

From this point onward, everything was going to go according to the Plan of God. That's a tremendous thing to understand! This was done by covenant, and covenant ***always has the sacrifice***

first! The covenant ***is symbolic*** of presenting your own death to show that you will do what you said.

Verse 14: "And Abraham called the name of that place The LORD Will Provide; so that it is said *until* this day, 'In the mount of the LORD it will be provided.' And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, **'By Myself...'**" (vs 14-16).

This is greater than swearing by heaven and earth. ***God is swearing by Himself!*** Who is a:

- God of Truth
- God of Love
- God of Law
- God of everything that there is

by Himself!

So, this covenant must go forward from that time in ***the way that God has decided!*** That's what's important! When we come down to the time of Christ and the sacrifice of Christ, the Church must go forward from that time as God has determined. With Christ as the sacrifice and His shed blood ***for the forgiveness of sin and resurrected from the dead!***

Verse 16: "And said, **'By Myself have I sworn,'** says the LORD, 'because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son; that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens...'" (vs 16-17).

Today we can have some great pictures of what the stars of heaven look like.

"...and as the sand, which is upon the seashore. And your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. **And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because ...**" (vs 17-18).

Now I want you to really remember these three words, the most important thing is this: All the way through the Bible.

- Adam and Eve *did not do this*
- the people before the Flood *did not do this*
 - ✓ ***Noah did this!***
 - ✓ ***Abraham did this!***

"...because you have obeyed My voice" (v 18). *That's the most important thing!*

Today, think about this. ***We have the Word of God in print!*** Down through time God has always used the few honest men to copy and preserve the Bible so we can have it in these end days the way we need to have it. That's a tremendous thing to understand, as well. That we can know it. We can understand it. *Written down!*

Now this is important and flows along with what we are saying here.

Genesis 26:5: “**Because Abraham obeyed My voice...**” *Again the most important thing!*

Now think of the responsibility upon us that we have the whole Word of God. We also have it that all of the things that men tried to do:

- to change it
 - to add to it
- or**
- take away from it

have also been preserved so we know the Truth!

Now think about that! That’s an amazing thing, indeed!

- God is greater than all of us
- God is greater than anything

“**...obeyed My voice and kept My charge...**” (v 5).

What was his charge? *Take your son and go to Mount Moriah and offer him!*

“**...My commandments, My statutes, and My Laws**” (v 5). *They were written down, and those were the same Laws that God gave to Israel!*

Anyone who comes to you and says the Law was not there from Adam and Eve until Israel *are absolute ignorant foolish liars!* Because it is there and we know all the mistakes that they have made.

God fulfilled a promise bringing them out of the land of Egypt to bringing them to Mount Sinai. And God, again, was going to use the descendants of Abraham to bring the Word of God to the whole world.

In that sense they would act like priests, because they would be representing God bringing the Word of God to the other nations of the world. *Well Israel only did that very sporadically!* So, here’s what God told Moses:

Moses was 80-years-old when he started leading the children of Israel out of Egypt; but God gave him enough strength. So, God said, ‘Come up here, I want to tell you what I’m going to do.’

Exodus 19:3: “And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the children of Israel, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians...”’” (vs 3-4).

You go back and look at all of the plagues and look at everything that happened, and you can understand how short their memory was.

“...and *how* I bore you on eagles’ wings and

brought you unto Myself. Now, therefore, **IF you...** [that’s all the children of Israel] ...**will obey My voice indeed...** [Do you see how important that is?] ...**and keep My covenant...**” (vs 4-5).

He was going to make a covenant with them. Whenever God deals with people you enter into covenant with God. *That’s what baptism is all about!*

That’s what it’s all about in Rom. 6, 7 & 8, because all of those tie together, and the substance of everything is ***obey My voice and keep My commandments!***

“**...THEN you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people;** for all the earth *is* Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation.” These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel” (vs 5-6).

Well of course they wanted that! Oh yes! Well, they didn’t count on God speaking to them from the top of Mount Sinai.

Now it’s very, very interesting—the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are what God has given from the beginning. ***They are eternal!*** As long as there are human beings this is the way it’s going to be, and the Laws of God no one can abrogate or change ***except God!***

Those who do it are calling God a liar! So, He gave all the Ten Commandments. Do you know all of them by heart, the long way? Memorized? *All of these are important!* The first four are to God:

- no other gods
- no idols/no statues
- don’t take His name in vain

Don’t say God said this when He didn’t!

Then the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a very interesting Commandment, because God puts His ***presence spiritually in the day!*** We come to Him on this day like today, ***the Sabbath Day!***

Number 4 is important. The tabernacle—the inner part where the Holy of Holies was—was a cube, length, breadth, and height. Just like when you come to New Jerusalem in Rev. 21.

We come into the presence of God on the Sabbath Day. We don’t need a temple ***because we have the Spirit of God!*** We assemble together the way that God wants.

Then we have the next six. This has to do with everybody else. Everyone who goes against the Ten Commandments ends up like we are in America or in the UK. ***We suffer the penalties of disobedience,*** because it just like the law of gravity where we started out. You know that the law rules

over a man for as long a time as he may live, every man, woman, and child on the earth, especially those within the Church.

Remember a great principle: You cannot take the ‘good’ from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and attach it to the way of God. Everything that human beings think are good of their own will and volition always end up in disaster. Where are we today? *Many disasters!* We just had two in two days! (speaking of the two plane crashes)

Now in Southern California the rain is coming, and it’s going to rain on Sodom and Gomorrah, and they’re going to have waves of mud coming down off the burning ***because they have rejected God!*** The wind of 100mph didn’t come from fans made by men, ***but by the power of God!***

Now then, the covenant is important. Let’s finish this here with the covenant with Israel. Exo. 24, and here’s where we also see again a covenant with the children of Israel. What was the promise? ***IF you obey My voice, you will be to Me a kingdom of priests!*** That was the promise; they said, ‘Yes, we will do it.’

Now the covenant: God is going to make this covenant with them, and they’re going to make this covenant with God. Once you enter into covenant, as we will see when we come to Rom. 7, *it is binding because you show forth your death first! You pledge your death!*

Exodus 24:1: “And He said to Moses, ‘Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and worship afar off.’”

God wanted witnesses that this was true, that He was God, that He gave these Laws, that these were His!

Verse 2: “And Moses alone shall come near the LORD, but they shall not come near. Neither shall the people go up with him.’ And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments....” (vs 2-3).

Notice that they agreed to it! When you’re baptized, the promise is ***forgiveness of sin and eternal life!*** That’s the promise. ***But you have to be baptized to show your death ahead of time! Your death in the watery grave is conjoined to the death of Jesus Christ!*** That’s how important a covenant is.

“...And all the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words which the LORD has said, we will do’” (v 3).

What is another covenant that’s between man and woman? *The marriage covenant!* Very similar.

Verse 4: “And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD...” *Notice that are written down!*

“...and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar at the base of the mountain and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel who offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of bullocks to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put *it* in basins, and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar” (vs 4-6).

Very important! There must be the shedding of blood! That’s what we have in Gen. 12. In Gen. 22 we have the shedding of the blood of the substitutionary sacrifice, which was the ram instead of Isaac.

Verse 7: “And he took the **Book of the Covenant**...”

God has it written down what He has spoken so that everyone can obey His voice!

No one can say, ‘Well I wasn’t there. I didn’t hear Him,’ which is what people will do. ***He has it written down!*** Every time it’s written down and printed, ***it’s a perpetual witness that God is true!***

Verse 7: “And he took the **Book of the Covenant**, and read in the ears of the people. And they said, ‘All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.’ And Moses took the blood and sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, ‘Behold the blood of the covenant...’” (vs 7-8).

Christ’s blood is the blood of the New Covenant! Covenant is the way that God operates. The covenant is at the beginning of the relationship, not at the end.

“...Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you concerning all these words” (v 8).

Then they went up, and what happened? They had the supper. What do we have with the New Covenant? *Remember what Jesus said:*

- the one who hears My words and does not do them, I’ll liken you to a foolish man
- the one who hears My words and does My words, I’ll liken him to a righteous man

Matthew 26:26: “And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*...”

Now that ties right in with what Steve Durham talked about in a very insightful and in-depth message. So, you might want to go over that one again.

“...Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*; then He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said,

‘Take, eat; this is My body.’

This covenant is greater than any other covenant. It is the life of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh; the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world.

So, we now have—instead of the supper back there in Exo. 24—the *Passover for eternal life* so that we participate in that once a year.

Verse 27: “And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, ‘All of you drink of it; **for this is My blood, the blood of the New Covenant...**” (vs 27-28).

Now remember, *a covenant is binding until the death of the one who makes the covenant!* So, in order for there to be a New Covenant, the One Who gave the covenant to Israel—Who became Jesus Christ—*had to die to end that covenant so there could be the New Covenant!*

Once we understand that, then next week, when we come to Rom. 7, we can understand the 20 places where *law* is used. ***But you must understand about covenant law!*** Our part in this whole thing is this. Baptism is your covenant death, symbolic death. *You’re pledging to God with that baptism that:*

- you will ***obey*** His voice
- you will ***keep*** His Commandments
- you will ***love*** Him

until you die! IF you fail that, you would face the second death!

So, we’ll get into Rom. 7 next week, *and I think you’ll find it very interesting indeed!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 7:1
- 2) John 4:21-24
- 3) Genesis 12:1-3
- 4) Genesis 15:1-6, 9, 12-15
- 5) Genesis 18:10-11
- 6) Genesis 22: 6-18
- 7) Genesis 26:5
- 8) Exodus 19:3-6
- 9) Exodus 24:1-8
- 10) Matthew 26:26-28

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Genesis 11
- John 7
- Hebrews 11
- Romans 6-8
- Revelation 21

Also referenced: Message:

The Parable of Leaven: Matthew 13:33
by Steve Durham

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