Day 1

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Freed From the Law; United with Christ Jesus

¹Do you not know, brothers — for I am speaking to men who know the law — that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

Q1. How does the "law have authority" over a person?

Q2. If a person is "under the law" and dies, what happens to the person's soul?

Q3. How would you contrast the attitude of a person "under the Law" to that of a follower of Christ Jesus? (Is one 'blissfully unaware'? Is one joyous, while anxious about the eternal destination of loved ones? Thoughts?) Law: attitude?

Believer: attitude?

² For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage.

Q4. Does death release a wife from the "law of marriage"? If so, how?

³So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

Q5. What is another word for adultery? _____ Q6. Is sin a problem for unbelievers? For Believers in Jesus? Unbelievers? Yes? No? Why? Believers? Yes? No? Why? Matthew 19:5 [The Holy Bible, International Children's Bible® (ICB), Copyright© 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Thomas Nelson.] And God said, 'So a man will leave his father and mother and be united with his wife. And the two people will become one body.' [Genesis 2:24] Q7. The Bible teaches that a husband and wife are one. (See Matt 19:5) Is it true that an unbeliever is "wedded" to the Law, whereas a Believer is one ("wedded") with Jesus? **1 Corinthians 6:17** [NIV-1984] But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Q8. If unbelievers are married to the Law, what happens when the unbeliever chooses Christ Jesus? Is there a death?

Day 2

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁴So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.

Q9. Paul writes, "you also died to the law". Who is the "you"? Q10. Who is the "another", the "him" in the phrase "you might belong to another, to him"? Q11. Do we really die? Q12. How can we "belong to another"? Are we slaves? Were we purchased? Q13. Is it important to "bear fruit to God"? James 2:17, 26 [NIV-1984] [Written by Jesus' half-brother] ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. \dots ²⁶ As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. Q14. [Apologetics] How would you answer someone who says that it is a fairy-tale that someone is raised from the dead?

Day 3

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⁵ For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

Q15. How are "we ... controlled by the sinful nature"?

Q16. How can "sinful passions [be] aroused by the law"? Q17. Is there a time when we are (1) "controlled by the sinful nature" and then a (2) time when we are not? (1) (2) Q18. How does a person "[bear] fruit for death"?

⁶But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Q19. What is the "written code"?

Q20. What 'died' in the phrase "by dying to what once bound us"?

Q21. How do we "serve in the new way of the Spirit"?

Day 4

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The Law's Impact on Us, on Our Sin

Q22. What was God's intent in providing the Ten Commandments?

Q23. Did the Ten Commandments provide any kind of comparison between mankind and God? (What are God's attributes or qualities?)

Yes? } Thoughts?

⁷What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed, I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "Do not covet."

Exodus 20:17 [NIV-1984]

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

Deuteronomy 5:21 [NIV-1984]

"You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. You shall not set your desire on your neighbor's house or land, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

⁸But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead.

Q24. If you have been told not to do something (or you instructed your child not to do something), what is the typical human reaction?

- Q25. In verse 8, Paul writes that "apart from law, sin is dead". What does Paul mean... under what circumstances can sin be dead?

⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

Q26. Why did Paul "die" when the law (or commandment) came into his life?

Notice the choice of Paul's words: sin didn't just slowly creep into his life like a careful, quiet thief; it was BOLD and SPRANG (or jumped or pounced) into his life . . . and ours. (Pounced brings to mind the verse in 1 Peter 5:8 ... "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

¹⁰I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.

Q27. How can words (the commandments) "bring death"?

Q28. How can we explain Paul's statement, "that was intended to bring life actually brought death"?

Q29. Thinking back to Adam and Eve, what freedoms did they have before they disobeyed?

Genesis 3:1-6 [NIV-1984]

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

⁴ "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Q30. Did the serpent's smooth, encouraging enticements awaken any kind of desire in Eve?

From the beginning people were rebels and rebelled against God.

Day 5

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹¹ For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

Q31. Why does Paul emphasize over-and-over the thought that "the commandment put me to death"?

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good.

Q32. How can the law be "holy, righteous, and good"?

"The law was holy, expressing God's nature and will for people. In the Garden of Eden, the serpent deceived Eve by taking her focus off the freedom she had and putting it on the one restriction God had made. Ever since, we have been rebels." [Life Application Study Bible, ©1991 by Tyndale House Publishers, Page 2040]

¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

Q33. Paul wrote, "it produced death in me through what was good." "What was good"? And how "was [it] good"? _{What?}

How?

The War of Good and Evil Within a Person

¹⁴We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

Q34. Are we also a "slave to sin"?

 Q35. When Paul writes this letter, he has been preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus for some time. He is obviously a Believer. Do you think that Paul really considered himself "unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin"?

 Yes? No?

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Q36. Do you think that Paul truly hated his sin?

Q37. How can we reach the point where we "hate" our sin, like Paul?

¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

Q38. Could "obedience" describe Paul's comment, "if I do what I do not want to do"?

Q39. If I obey and do something that I do not want to do, then why is the law good?

Day 6

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¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Q40. Verse 17: This sounds like one of comedian <u>Flip Wilson's</u> signature lines, "The devil made me do it!" Is Paul making an excuse?

Q41. Verse 18: If I have the desire to do what is good, what stops me from carrying it out?

¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

Q42. How would you describe the battle between good and evil?

²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.

Q43. Do you "delight in God's law"? If a person does not have that "delight," how can he or she move from a feeling of discontent toward emotional delight?

Q44. Do you feel a war raging within you?

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
²⁵ Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Q45. How does Jesus Christ our Lord rescue us "from this body of death"?

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