

## **FREEDOM FROM SIN – PART 2**

Romans 8:3-4 ... “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on the account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Our study of Romans 8 continues. You might want to read the previous lesson for verses 1 and 2.

The “law” spoken of in today’s passage is the law that Jews lived under prior to the Messiah (Christ) coming. Jews who do not accept Christ as the Messiah, are required to live under Jewish law. However, we know that they must still accept Christ as their Lord and Savior before they die, if they want to enter eternity’s paradise. Our passage today recognizes the near impossibility of having favor with God by just following the law, because you must live a sin-free life under the law without the aid of the Holy Spirit, who only dwells within born again Christians. This, of course, is why God the Father sent Jesus to earth in the first place: To redeem men who cannot live according to the law without God’s help.

God sent Jesus “in the likeness of sinful flesh,” which means that he sent him as a man, just like us. The difference between us and Jesus, is that Jesus never sinned. He could not be a sinner and still serve as the final pure sacrifice for sin. Sacrifice is only valid if the sacrificial object is pure. “On the account of sin,” refers to our sin. God condemned sin and required its punishment, which is prescribed in the law (including the Ten Commandments). By sacrificing a perfect man – Jesus – the law’s requirement for righteousness was satisfied. No further sacrifices are required.

But as we saw in our previous lesson about Romans 8:1-2, this promise is conditional. The last part of today’s passage reads: “who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” You cannot be declared righteous and, therefore, eligible for heaven if you choose to live according to the desires of your own mind (the flesh). Jesus has already paid the price for your sins and offered you a free gift of salvation and righteousness. However, you must choose every day whether to live in obedience to Christ, or subject to your own mind and flesh.

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