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What The Law Could Not Do

Text: Romans 8:2-3

This chapter begins with “no condemnation” and ends with “no separation”.

When we are in Christ Jesus, there is *no* condemnation and there is liberty.

Paul wants to say that what we have here is an issue of potency.

1. **The law is impotent.**

T. W. Manson: *“Moses’ law has right but not might; sin’s law has might but not right; the law of the Spirit has both right and might.”*[[1]](#footnote-2)

There are matters the law cannot resolve. There are issues the law cannot settle. The law cannot free us. Verse 3a- Literally, *The impossible (thing) of the law.*

The law made us aware of our need of structure and our need of principles by which we might live. In this passage there are two uses of *law.* The Ten Commandments. The other writing/teachings of Moses.

1. The law as a principle. **Illus**. Law of gravity. Law of the land. In logic, there is the law of contradiction. The law of supply and demand. Law of cause and effect.

Galatians 3:22-24:

**22***But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.* ***23****But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the* ***law****, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.* ***24****Therefore the* ***law*** *was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

2. **God is omnipotent.**

God frees us. The law of the Spirit of life has made us free. What the law could not do, God did!

How? How, exactly, did God free us from the law of sin and death?

2 Corinthians 3:17

*Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

In 7:6 of Romans, Paul writes about the law which held him and the oldness of the letter of the law.

In Galatians 5:3, Paul says that we are *called to liberty*. It is the will of God that you and I and live in freedom.

Verse 2 says that law delivers us from law. WHAT?

There are two theological porticos under which we can hang:

1. Under the law- 7:7-25
2. Under the Spirit - 8:2-4, 7

**Closing**

The law can make us:

Arrogant but not anointed

Cocky but not consecrated

Humanitarian and helpful but not holy

Introspective but not innocent

Judgmental but not justified

Legal but not loving

Moral but not meaningful

Principled but not pure

Rigid but not righteous

Satisfied but not sanctified

**There is much the law cannot do!**

Thanks be to God for His saving power. In Jesus the Christ, God freed us from the guilt produced by our inability to keep the law.

**Illus.**

A law is dominant until superseded by another law. For example, in aviation a plane will stay on the ground, bound by the law of gravity, until the law of lift is implemented. When lift is implemented, the gravity has no more effect over the airplane. Rejoice, people of God. Before Jesus the Savior of the World got hold of us, we were under the law of sin and death. Then came Jesus.

He saved us and His law of life overcame the law of sin and death. Hallelujah. In this season, we celebrate the coming of the One who is the embodiment of the freedom gift. Jesus does what the law could *not*!

Amen

1. T.W. Manson, *Romans.* Peake’s Commentary on the Bible, ed. Matthew Black and H.H. Rowley (London, 1980) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)