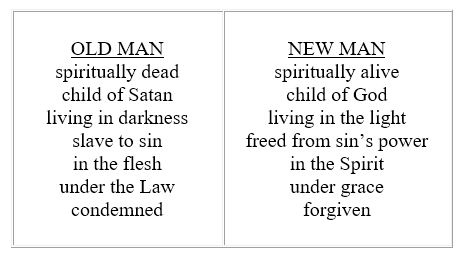
“Made New”

July 22, 2018

Revelation 21:1-7

Please find with me the seventh chapter of Romans.

I’d like to begin with a contrast between the person you were before your conversion and the person you are since your conversion. Here it is.



It’s a given that most of us like “new” things; new car; new watch; new home, new phone; new computer; new glasses; etc.

And, there are quite a few “new” things that you are already familiar with in the Bible. There’s the *New* Testament. Jeremiah announced the *New* Covenant. Jesus tells us about the *new* birth and the *new* commandment. And we’ve got the Book of Revelation which tells us something about the *new* heavens and the *new* earth and especially Revelation 21 where the LORD tells us that He will, one day, make all things *new*.

But, what each person everywhere must ask themselves is this. Are you a “new” man or a “new woman”? You see, prior to coming to Christ, you were spiritually dead, even a child of Satan, living in darkness, a slave to sin, in the flesh, under the Law, and condemned.”

And at the minute you came to the LORD, you received a *new* life and, according to the Bible, you became a *new* man, a new person. You are now spiritually alive. You are a child of God. You are living in the Light. You’ve been freed from sin’s power. You are in the Spirit, under grace, and complete-ly forgiven. So, are you a “new man” or are you still a spiritu-ally dead child of Satan living in darkness?

So, are you a slave to sin, in the flesh, under the law, and condemned? Or are you spiritually alive, freed from sin’s power, and living in the Light? There is a world of difference.

Who here is convinced that *“if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*? Paul teaches us this in II Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man be in Christ,* ***he is a new creature [creation]****: old things are passed away; behold,* ***all things are become new****.”*

Can you see what’s on my heart today? Can you see what’s on the LORD’s heart? I’ve titled today’s sermon “Made New.” Shall we pray?

One of the LORD’s servants from the 19th century, a man who has helped many Christians was a South African Pastor by the name of Andrew Murray. Pastor Murray was born in 1828 and died in 1917. He lived to be 89 years old. As a Pastor, Murray wrote a lot of books, fifty full-length books and then another 150 smaller booklets, to be exact. I have nineteen of those books in my library.

Here’s a classic line from Pastor Murray. It comes from the book “Abide In Christ.” Please notice what he says about your being a *new* person. “The whole Christian life depends on the clear consciousness of our position in Christ … Most essential to the abiding in Christ is the daily renewal of our faith’s assurance, ‘I am in Christ.’… Nothing will exalt free grace, and make man bow very low before it, than the knowledge of the mystery, ‘OF GOD in Christ.'” [Page 39]

“Of God I am in Christ: **created anew**, made a branch of the Vine, fitted for fruit-bearing. Would to God that believers would cease looking most at their old nature [the flesh], and complaining of their weakness, as if God called them to what they are unfitted for!

Would that they would believingly and joyfully accept the wondrous revelation of how God, in uniting them to Christ, has made HIMSELF chargeable for their spiritual growth and fruitfulness!

How all sickly hesitancy and sloth would disappear, and under the influence of this mighty motive… their whole nature would rise to accept and fulfil their glorious destiny.” [Page 42-43]

But in the spiritual realm, sometimes a Christian loses sight of just how much God has done to make us new.

So, listen along with me to the Voice of the LORD as He describes a Christian. Colossians 3:9 *“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; (10) And* ***have put on the new man****, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: …”*

In essence, stop lying. Why? Because you have put off the old man with his deeds and you’ve put on the *new* man which is renewed in knowledge.

Now, in order for any of us to enter into the words of Romans chapter seven, we need to whole-heartedly see ourselves as we really are. So, look with me at a couple of things.

Now, I *must* believe these things if I am a Child of God. And, when I believe them, I am giving up all thinking that is opposed to them. Here they are.

One, I am united to Christ – *“planted together”* - my relationship to Adam has been severed – Romans 6:5

Two, I am free from the authority (dominion) of sin because the old man is gone, having been crucified and buried – Romans 6:6

Three, I am *“alive to God”* – Romans 6:11

Four, I have a brand new identity – I am a child of God. I’m a Saint. I’m a Priest.

Five, I’ve been born of God – I have one nature, a *new* nature and, even though *“evil is present with me.”* I delight in God’s Law – Romans 7:21; I John 3:0 and Galatians 2:20 [Foolishly some preach that a Christian has two dogs living inside of him, each fighting for dominion; this is completely false].

Romans seven, folks, will benefit you most if the message of Romans six has and is becoming your experience. Folks, if God says that “you are freed from sin and alive to God,” then you are free and you are alive to Him.

So, what is Romans seven? Romans seven is an explan-ation of Romans 6:14 where Paul says this. Romans 6:14 *“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”*

You see, before you came to the LORD for salvation, you were bound to the Law. And what does that mean? It means that you were stuck. It means that “when God said no, your sin nature [your old man] said yes. When He said yes, your sin nature [your old man] said no.”

Let me show you what I mean. The Law says “thou shalt not.” Yet, because your old man loved sin, all of the “thou shalt nots” made you want to do the exact opposite. You wanted to do whatever God said “no” to.

For example, if God said “Thou shalt not covet,” my sin nature pushed me to coveting. If the Law said “thou shalt not lie,” my sin nature pushed me to lying.

Now, in Christ, you are free from that type of thinking.

And don’t forget what Paul says about the fruit of that kind of living. Romans 6:21 *“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.”*

So, Romans seven is an explanation of the Law and sin now that you are a Christian.

Folks, you are not under the law. Your old man was crucified with Christ. And you are under grace and perfectly united to the LORD Jesus.

So, Romans seven. What is it? This is God, the Holy Spirit, explaining the new relationship that a Christian has to sin *and* to the Law because sin is so closely tied to God’s law. Romans is the Christian life. It’s how the Christian thinks. So, the more your heart seeks the LORD and wants to live to please Him, the more the Book of Romans will help.

This seventh chapter has twenty-five verses and Paul drives home his point by dividing his message up into four sections.

First, Romans 7:1-3 How does marriage illustrate the power and dominion of the Law?

Second, Romans 7:4-6 Is a Christian dead to the Law?

Third, Romans 7:7-12 If the Law gives us so much difficulty in the matter of sin, then why did God gave us the Law?

And fourth, Romans 7:13-25 “If I do what I shouldn’t do, doesn’t that mean I’m still under the Law?”

First, then, God’s idea of marriage illustrates the power and dominion of the Law. Now, I realize that there’s a lot in the Bible about marriage. But Paul presents just one aspect of it.

Romans 7:1 *“Know ye not, [don’t you understand] brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? (2) For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.*

*(3) So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.”*

From the very beginning marriage has always been regulated by the law. And to day, every married person has been to the law. You have placed yourself under the authority of the law both to get married and to stay married. You went to the Law to get a quote “license” to marry. So, when and if your spouse dies, you are no longer bound by that same “marriage” law. And if you marry while you are bound by the Law to your spouse, the Law says you are an adulterer.

So that’s Paul’s first point. God’s idea of marriage illustrates the power and dominion of the Law. Prior to salvation, you were under the Law. What’s really amazing is this. Someone died and, now as a Christian, you are married to Someone else. That’s Paul’s second point, verse four.

Romans 7:4 *“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”*

Every Christian has become dead to the Law. And every Christ is now married to Christ. And why? Verse four, so that we can bring forth fruit unto God.

So, marriage illustrates the dominion of the Law.

And a Christian is dead to the Law and therefore married to Christ.

Please take these words to heart. You see, as a Christian you need to understand exactly how you are related to the Law. Otherwise you will, as Christian, act and live and think and behave as though you were under the Law.

And how is that? When God says “no,” you say “yes.” When God says “yes,” you say “no.” It’s really that simple. And if you are not saved, that’s your foundation. If you are saved, then your foundation is this. You’ve been delivered from the dominion of the Law and you are married to Jesus Christ. Apart from this new relationship, you can bear no fruit to the LORD. Your life will be effort and striving and even *“how much can I do for the LORD?”*

And folks, the Christian who misses the message of Romans six will likely not see the difference between a rule based, self- empowered life and the grace-based, Christ-empowered life.

And how does that work? All of God’s commands can be obeyed by the power of the One Who lives in you.

So, first, marriage is a picture of the power and dominion of the Law.

Second, the Christian is dead to the Law.

There are many ways to describe the Christian life. And one of them is right here. We are not under the Law. Instead, we are married to Christ.

Romans 7:4 *“Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*

*(5) For when we were in the flesh, [when we were in our unsaved state] the motions [passions] of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*

*(6) But now we are delivered from the law, [now we are saved] that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”*

Folks, one of the special joys of living the Christian life is right. God has called every Christian to a life of service. We are serving Him in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter of the Law. We have been made new. We are new creations in Christ.

Christians are able to do what an Unbeliever cannot do. A Christian is able to stop serving sin simply because he or she is no longer under the law, but under God’s grace. Now, we serve with a new spirit. And our service it the LORD. We no longer serve ourselves.

This, folks, is the whole reason why your old man was crucified with Jesus. Romans 6:6 *“Knowing [realizing] this, that our old man is [was] crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed [annulled, declared invalid, powerless], that henceforth we should not serve sin.”*

It’s all about your relationship to Christ and it’s no longer “when God says no, I say yes; and when He says yes, I say no.” Today it’s “Without Him I can do nothing.” Today it’s “I can serve Him in newness of Life.”

Today it’s “no longer I that live, but Christ living in me and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God Who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Today’s it’s “I’ve become dead to the Law by the body of Christ.” Today it’s “I have become married to Jesus Christ and am bearing fruit unto God.” Today it’s “I’ve been delivered from the Law so that I can serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter of the Law.” Today it’s “I daily put off the old man with his deeds and I am putting on the new man, which has been created in righteousness and true holiness.”

I’ve been made new. Christian, you are no longer under the dominion and condemnation of the Law. Instead, you are free to live and serve in the power of the One that you are united to; Jesus Christ.

Those of you who have been in a boat out on the water know that sometimes you get into choppy water and may get quite sick. Some people get very sick because of the movement of the boat on the waves.

And what advice would you give to that sick person? “Go below in to the cabin.” No, instead “Look at the horizon in the distance.” And why? Because it gives your mind and your eyes the proper perspective. Christian, you’ve been made new.

So, you see, the Christian life is not just believing something about Christ. Its’ not just “I’m going to Heaven.” It’s about understanding something about yourself. It’s about living in light of the new relationship you have to the Law and your new relationship you have with Jesus Christ. So, let both Romans six and Romans seven show you that you’ve been made new.

Hebrews 12:1 puts it this way. *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, even the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience [endurance] the race that is set before us,*

*(2)* ***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith****; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

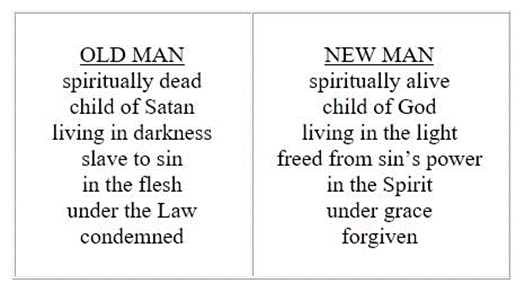
In closing and in light of Romans seven, why not settle it right now before the LORD. Why not pray this prayer. Here’s the Prayer of surrender. Why not pray it today.

“I hereby surrender everything that I am, and have, and ever will be. I take my hands off of my life and release every relationship to You -- every habit, every goal, my health, my wealth, and everything that means anything. I surrender it all to You.

And by faith I take my place at the Cross, believing that when the Lord Jesus was crucified, according to Your Word, I was crucified with Him; when He was buried, I was buried; when He was raised from the dead, I was raised with Him.

So I deny myself the right to rule and reign in my own life and take up the Cross and believe that I was raised from the dead and am now seated at your right hand. I thank You for saving me from my sins and myself.” [The Selfer’s Prayer found on www. <http://www.gracenotebook.com> by John Woodward].

You see, you are a new creation in Christ.



So, folks, don’t live the life of an unbelieving Christian. You are a Believer. You have been made new. So, live the life of a Christian with Christ in full charge.

Remember, Paul wrote these words to the Christian. And remember, it’s only through Jesus Christ your LORD. It’s His life in you that really matters.

Will you let Him have His way today?

Hymn # 574 “A Child Of The King”