

ROMANS

The Heart of the Matter

Romans: the Heart of the Matter

“Thanks Be to God...!”

Lamplighters Women’s Bible Study

Nov. 18, 2015



Announcements

- Fellowship today!
- Giving Tree up out front.
- Tamale Time—see Cheryl Banks outside. \$13 per dozen. Pick up Dec. 4, 1:00-3:00, Eaton Hall
- African Children’s Choir, Sunday, Jan. 3; 6:00
- Return Wed., Jan. 6, 2016—prepared to share your epiphanies over the Christmas holidays (Epiphany— *“a manifestation of Christ”*)



Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.



Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns;
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hill, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat
the sounding joy.



No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as
the curse is found.



He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of
His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders
of His love!



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Thanks Be to God...!

The Authority of the Law

Rom. 7:1-6

The Ministry of the Law

Rom. 7:7-13

The Inability of the Law

Rom. 7:14-25



The Authority of the Law

- We all sin.
- We all need rescuing.
- God has provided the Rescuer.
- We were once slaves to sin—sin brings death.
- We are now slaves to Christ who brings life.



The Authority of the Law

Does the gospel free us to live any way we want?

NO!

Can we just ignore the law?

NO!

We are married to Jesus Christ!



The Authority of the Law

application:

How does the image of being married to Christ, of belonging to Him as His beloved, change the way you think about the Lord? Yourself? Others?

Mediate on the perfect Bridegroom during Advent.

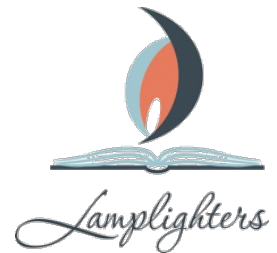


The Ministry of the Law

Is the law a bad thing? NO!

1. Defines sin.
2. Reveals sin in us.
3. Condemns.
4. Is a weapon used by sin.

“We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners.”



The Ministry of the Law

Application:

How do you respond to “the law”, to boundaries set around your behavior?

What is your internal attitude toward God’s limits?



The Inability of the Law

We do not need more information. We need transformation.

The law cannot change us, cannot enable us to do good, cannot set us free.



The Inability of the Law

1. the law—v. 14, 16, 22, 25
2. a general principle—v. 21
3. a force or power—v. 23, 25



The Inability of the Law

Warning:

1. We are never “over” sin.
2. We will always struggle against sin.

Encouragement:

This battle is consistent with growth as a follower of Christ!



The Inability of the Law

“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”



The Inability of the Law

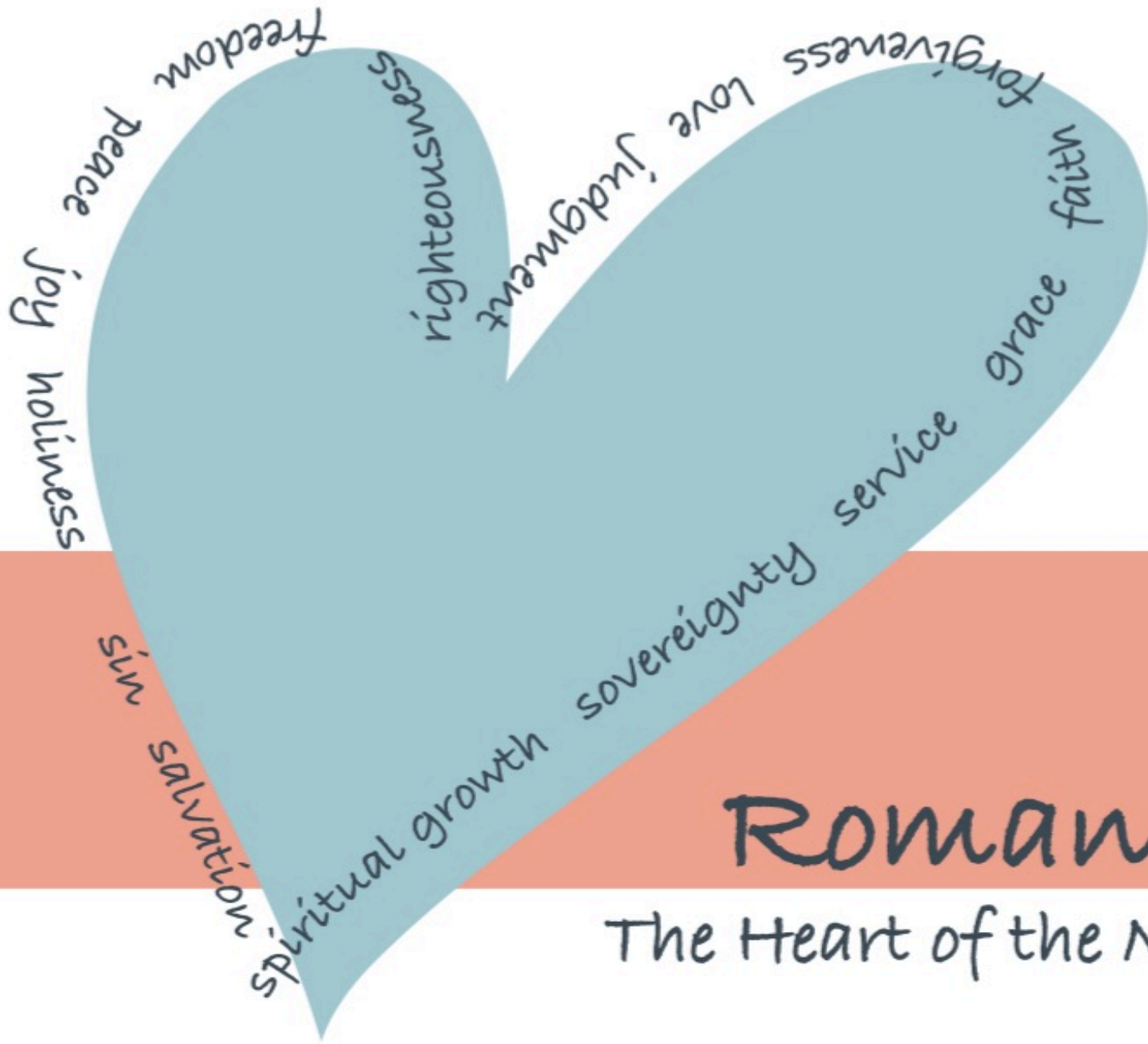
Applications:

Discuss a time in your life when you desperately wanted to act in a certain way you thought was right but were unable to do so.

What helps?

How will you “feed the one you want to win”?





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The Subtlety of Sin's Deceit

“Thou shalt not be dissatisfied with what the Lord has given thee.”

A slave to Christmas:

- Doing vs. Being
- Magical vs. Meaningful
- A Prepared Home vs. a Prepared Heart
- Frantic Preparation vs. Peaceful Anticipation



What's the Hope?

“Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
...Therefore, there is NO condemnation for those
who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ
Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from
the law of sin and death.”

