

Romans Chapter 8  
Week 4, v. 3-5

Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God [did:] sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and [as an offering] for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

Think about this: Are you able to do everything you set out to do? Do you *always* have the right thoughts, the right responses and the right actions? Why is this impossible?

We are weak – our mind is weak, our body is weak. As hard as we might try to do everything right, we are unable to do things perfectly. We might know what to do but we fight with sin.

The law itself is not weak, but humans, who are supposed to carry it out to perfection, are. The words *could not do* mean it is unable to do, impossible, incapable, ineffective.

So why is the law unable to set us free? Because our flesh is weak or feeble: we lack physical and mental strength to carry out the law to its perfection. In order for the law to save, it requires us to perfectly fulfill it – something we can never accomplish. The law itself is good being designed by God; however, sinful men are unable to obey and observe the law of God perfectly.

Rom 7:14-18 For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I [would] like to [do,] but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not wish [to do], I agree with the Law, [confessing] that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good [is] not. Keep reading through the end of the chapter...

Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Rom 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law [comes] the knowledge of sin.

What did God do to fix the problem we have? What does Romans 8:3 say?

Ro 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God [did:] sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and [as an offering] for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin [to be] sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

What do we learn in Ro 8:3?

- 1) The Law was weak because people are weak
- 2) God sent His own Son, Jesus
- 3) He made Him in the likeness of sinful flesh though He knew no sin [Phil 2:7](#)
- 4) Jesus is the perfect offering for sin [John 1:29](#)
- 5) Through Jesus we are set free from the control of sin

The design and object of the incarnation and sacrifice of Christ was to condemn sin, to have it executed and destroyed; not to tolerate it as some think, or to render it subservient to the purposes of his grace, as others; but to annihilate its power, guilt, and being in the soul of a believer. Adam Clarke's Commentary

...the sacrifice of Christ has not only condemned sin as being evil, but has weakened its power and destroyed its influence, and will finally annihilate its existence in all who are saved by that death. Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

To annihilate means to destroy something completely so that it ceases to exist.

Why did God send His own Son as an offering for our sin? Why did we need Christ to take the judgment for our sin upon Himself?

Rom 8:4 in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

*In order that* denotes the purpose or result. Jesus did what we could not do – He perfectly fulfilled the righteousness of the law for us. The law is fully satisfied in Him so that our punishment is paid.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Ps 32:2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit!

1 Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

*What is our responsibility?* *To walk **not** according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Because of Jesus, we no longer follow our corrupt nature but instead we follow after the Spirit.

Rom 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. [This was] to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, [I say,] of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

*What is our response?*

Luke 10:27 And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." (Deut 6:5)

Gal 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Jude 1:25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, [be] glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

- 1 - Jesus fully satisfied the law through His death and resurrection.
- 2 - Our debt has been paid
- 3 - We have a responsibility to live righteously for Christ
- 4 - Christ's obedience profits us nothing unless we repent, obey and are led by the spirit, not the flesh

Who guides your thoughts, words and actions, yourself or the Spirit?  
How do you know?

Do you strive to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?  
What does this look like in everyday situations?

Do you strive to love your neighbor as yourself? In what ways do you do this? Why is this important?

What does the righteousness of the law mean?

That we might be conformed to the law, or be obedient to its requirements, and no longer under the influence of the flesh and its corrupt desires. Albert Barnes' NT Commentary

Jesus paid the price for our death; the evidence that we have accepted His glorious gift is shown in our obedience to Him.

The proper evidence of being interested in Christ, and entitled to the blessings of his salvation, is a disposition to regard the things which the Holy Spirit has revealed, and to follow his directions. Family Bible Notes

We have already discovered that we are unable to do anything good in our own strength. Trying to do what Christ would want of us cannot be done through our own efforts. We will constantly be reaching for a goal that is impossible for us to attain. So it is not through ourselves that we can please Christ but through His Spirit who leads us and intercedes for us and teaches us.

Are you practicing self-righteousness or the righteousness that comes from God through His Spirit?  
What's the difference?

The first places you in bondage to the penalty of sin and is impossible to attain, the second is the freedom from the bondage of sin and possible through Christ's death and resurrection.

Application Questions  
Romans Chapter 8  
Week 4, v.3-5

Prayerfully consider how God is speaking to you as you look at the questions below. Be sure to jot down additional questions that come to mind as you are spending time in the Word.

Why is 'the Law' in Romans 8:3 unable to set us free? Read Rom 7:14 thru the end of the chapter and Acts 13:39.

Read Rom 8:4. It begins with the words, 'in order that' which denotes a purpose. What is the question Rom 8:4 answers?

Look up Rom 8:1; Ps 32:2; 1 Pet 2:24 and Jude 1:24. Make a list of what it means to have the righteousness of the law in us.

According to Rom 8:5, where is our mind supposed to be set as a child of God?

What is the difference between having a mind set on the flesh and a mind set on the Spirit? Think of a specific situation and note the contrast.

Read Gal 5:22-25. List the fruits of the Spirit. How are these demonstrated in your life? What do you need to work on through God's grace and strength?

What do we have available to us if we are in the Spirit? Reference John 14:26; Rom 14:17; Rom 5:5; Rom 15:13.