

Give The Devil His Due

Chapter 7

The Sin Nature

Romans six speaks about the baptized Christian. Paul is speaking to people who have professed to believe in Jesus Christ. This passage will show you what has power over men. Chapter five of Romans speaks of justification by faith. It says that death reigned after Adam's sin and then it concludes:

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:19-21

Paul is making a comparison between Adam, who brought sin into this race, and Jesus who removes sin. Notice the use of the word "reigned" in verse 21. Going back a little in the chapter to verse 14, we find the word "reigned" again:

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 5:14

The word "reigned" signifies rulership. Remember this as we read chapter six. In this chapter Paul talks about that which presently-reigns over people, and had reigned over them in the past.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:1-6

Some people argue in favor of a devil who is a separate being and exists apart from man, on the grounds that the devil is spoken of as a person. In other words, he is personified by being called "Satan," "the Devil," "he," and so on. Therefore, he must have a separate entity with life in himself.

In Romans, Paul is speaking of the change of the individual from the old life to the new life in Christ and he says that OUR OLD MAN is crucified with Christ. There is something belonging to US which is crucified, put away, or taken away. In this passage it is personified and called OUR OLD MAN.

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Romans 6:7

This is speaking to Christians who are freed from sin by their acceptance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

Romans 6:8-12

We are not to let the lust to sin, or the “devil,” reign or be the ruler in our mortal bodies. That makes sense when we think of the phrase “resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Resist the lust to sin and you won't sin.

Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:13-16

Notice the personalizing of sin. When you become the servants of sin, you make yourselves obedient unto him. Obedient to whom? Obedient to sin. So sin is personalized as the ruler who rules over you, when you turn yourself over to it. He says you are even his (sin's) servants.

But God be thanked, that ye were [past tense] the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Romans 6:17-18

So, you are made free from the devil, or from the lust to sin, by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and becoming a servant of righteousness, a servant of Jesus.

I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:18-23

This shows that very definite theology that the wages of sin is death.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:14

The devil and sin can be made interchangeable in most of these passages. Both the devil and sin are referred to as “he,” “him,” and “it.” You are “its” ser-

vants, you are “his” servants, and so on. So the argument that the devil must be a person, because he is personalized by being called “he” and “him,” is not valid. As we've seen here, sin is, also, called “he” and “him.”

There is an axiom in physics that things equal to the same thing are equal to each other. The devil and sin both have the power and the key to death. The devil and sin are both that which reigns in your mortal body if you turn to sin. The devil and sin are both that which you serve when you live in sin. And the devil and sin are both that which Jesus came to destroy. He died that the devil, or sin, might have an end in your mortal body.

Before we leave the subject of servants and serving that which reigneth over you, let's read part of John 12. Jesus is telling of His coming death.

“The Prince Of This World”

And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

John 12:23

As Jesus ends His prayer a voice is heard:

Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.

John 12:28-33

Jesus' death was going to cast out the prince of this world. After further teaching to the disciples about what He was going to do, what was going to happen to Him, and what was going to be accomplished, Jesus says:

And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe. Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

John 14:29-30

Jesus implies that the “prince of this world” is going to triumph, at least at that moment. The prince of that world could have been Pilate, who was the ruler, or the prince of the Roman Empire at that time. It could have been the chief priest who was the ruler over Jerusalem; or it could have been death. The prince of this world was going to take rulership over Jesus, at least temporarily.

What rules over the world? Yes, I know the people say that the devil or Satan rules. But what is the principle that we have just been discussing which rules over the world? Sin and death are the rulers of this world. If you don't think that sin and death rule over this world, then you haven't taken a good look at the world as it is today. Everyone is going toward death. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. So, the phrase “prince of this world” could mean, simply, that which rules over man in this world. It doesn't have to be a separate entity with life in itself.

In chapter 16 of John, we read of the Holy Ghost, or the Comforter, which will come:

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if

I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

John 16:7-11

In verse eight we read that “He will reprove the world of sin.” The Comforter will judge sin which is the prince of this world. How does the Holy Ghost do that? Read on:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 16:13-14

In other words, the Comforter will teach you God's Laws. He will teach you the right way, He will show you things to come. He will reveal to you “sin,” which is the prince of this world. He will remove you from being a servant of sin (or the prince of this world), He will show you the better way and place you under the rulership of Jesus Christ.

Most of us have been taught from infancy that there is a great satanic being who is long-living and has power to affect your mind and heart (he supposedly comes from without and does this). Most of us have never heard an argument against this teaching. That same thing is true about the doctrine of Hell. We have never heard an argument against it. We hear it in the churches, we read it in the

magazines, we see it in the movies, we read it in the newspaper and everyone we ever talked to told us that when people die they go to Hell and the devil and his demons stick them with pitchforks, forever and ever. We believed this because that was all we ever heard. We had never really examined the scriptures before to see if these things be so. Yet, when we begin to examine the scriptures, this doctrine, oddly enough, just is not there.

“The Prince OF The Power Of The Air”

We have just seen that the thing which we serve is “sin,” which is called “the devil.” It is that evil principle in man's nature, which takes rulership over man until he is set free from sin (or the devil) by Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians, Paul is talking to people who have become Christians:

And you hath he quickened [made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:1-2

The fundamentalists all stop there and say: “See, they all served the devil, Satan, and the 'prince of the power of the air.' “

Let's read verse three:

Among whom also we all had our conversation (or our lives) in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Ephesians 2:3

This tells us that the “prince of the power of the air” represents the lusts or desires of the flesh and of the mind. It is right in the passage, but most people read only verses one and two and they do not read verse three.

Paul must have known, when he wrote to the Ephesians, what James knew when he wrote these words:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 1:14-15

That is what Jesus meant when He taught:

There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.

Mark 7:15

And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Mark 7:20-23

Our Worst Enemy Is Us

What do the enemies and the corrupters of Israel use against us? Some might say they use liquor, pornography, and all sorts of things that entice us. What are they enticing? They are enticing the devil or the lust to sin that is within us. If we accepted Jesus' rule, instead of

the rule of the devil within us, these enemies would make no headway with all of the things they present before us. They have to entice that thing which is within us, which then defiles us. If we did not have the lust to sin within us then all of these people who are working against us in the nations of Israel would find themselves, literally, unable to make a living. Most of them make their living getting us to buy that which entices the lust that is within us. If we put this internal devil under control, our enemies would have no control over us. There is not some great, omnipotent, or omniscient supernatural creature that comes against us that we cannot resist. As the saying goes: we are our own worst enemy.

Every time Israel was in sin and iniquity, God sent a prophet to them and accused the Israelites. He didn't accuse the devil, or Satan or Israel's enemies of sin and iniquity. He always accused the people themselves. Israelites have always been personally-accountable for their own sins. That is why David prayed, in Psalm 19: “Cleanse thou me from secret faults.” David had committed the sin of adultery and in Psalm 51, he says:

Have mercy upon me, a God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Psalm 51:1-4

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Psalm 51:7

David did not claim that the devil made him do it or that someone else had come and enticed him. David said, "I transgressed, God forgive me."

Even though many ministers preach out of the Law and try to convict people of sin, they still leave this omniscient spirit being here as the cause of their sin; instead of laying the cause where it is: right in our own corrupt minds and hearts. If we realize what WE are, then it is easy for us to understand why God tells us we are the ones who must turn.

God tells us what the lust to sin does:

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ; who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

One Sovereign Creator God

It is the lust to sin in the flesh which blinds people to the truth. It is that which is in man which blinds him. It is not some devil or Satan casting a spell on him. If you believe that there is some great Satan who does all of this and who is the cause of all these evil and wicked things that happen, what does that say about God's sovereignty? And what does that say about Jesus' statement that He has been given all authority in Heaven and in Earth? It destroys it!

What blinds men? Their sinful nature! Who gave men their sinful nature? God, the Creator!

In the final analysis, we are talking about the sovereignty of God. We're talking about whether there is one God or

many gods. The truth that must come out is that there is ONE God. He has made us as we are, with what we might call a fault, but God did it deliberately.

I'm reminded of a new book someone recently gave me. It's titled World Mythology. It covers all of the civilizations and peoples of the earth from the past to the present. It is a little astounding just to page through something like this and look at the pictures of pagan gods. People actually worship those little statues, pieces of stone, carvings of ivory, and moldings of gold. These "gods" have been given names and have had powers ascribed to them. There are long stories, which we today call mythology, that the pagans believed. A large part of the world still believes this kind of thing.

In mythology there are gods for everything. There are gods for creation, for disasters, for earthquakes and for the weather. The pagans have gods which control the wind and sea, gods that give them crops or destroy their crops, and gods of war and peace. They have gods which give life and health and bring disease and death. Some of their gods give children, while still others give wealth or poverty.

Where do all of these gods come from? They come from within men's minds. The Bible calls them "no gods." They are things which men make up in their hearts and minds and then they teach them to other men.

A Controlling Tool Of Priestcraft

There is one reason for all of this. If you know ancient history, you will recognize that the stories that were taught by the priests about gods were designed to do one thing: place the people in subjection to the priest. The story always has the same

ending: "Here are all of these gods. I, the priest, have contact with all of them. I know how to talk to them. I will get messages from them and will offer sacrifices unto them to take away their wrath, or I will pray to them to give you good things. What do you have to do? You have to give me your money, your allegiance, your obedience to my commands."

The history of the world is the history of people in captivity to men who taught them false stories about gods. Let's transpose that over to the modern age. Does the devil serve the same purpose? The minister is the priest who has contact with God. People are told there is a raging monster in the world, who will destroy them unless this minister intervenes with God to save them. We are told that if we do not obey the minister, we will go to this place where the devil is and we will be tortured for ever and ever.



What is the result of this teaching? Whole nations and whole peoples come under the sway of a priesthood, which teaches the existence of an evil god that does not exist. The only difference is that years ago the priests taught that there were hundreds of gods, whereas today,

what passes for Christianity seems to preach only two gods: the good one and the bad one. The principle is still the same. The result is still the same. People come under bondage under a priesthood. In Christendom, the clergy couches all of this in Biblical phraseology, and they even use the name of Jesus. However, their theme is still the same: "You must come and do what I say, otherwise you will be turned over to this Devil and, in Hell, he will torment you for eternity. I am the only one who can save you."

The Roman Catholic Church, to a great extent, rules over much of the earth with this false doctrine, telling of a non-existent god who has the power to hurt people. Can you imagine what the world would be like and what our people would be like if they were taught, and actually believed, that there is only ONE God, who has all power and we can turn to Him for help, for sustenance and for deliverance from the lust to sin within ourselves?

In Exodus, God released Israel from an Egyptian bondage. Chapter 12 tells of the giving of the Passover, which was a symbol of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, which is the atonement and the salvation from our sins. In verses 11 and 12, we read:

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

Exodus 12:11-12

When God destroyed the firstborn of the ruling class in Egypt, God destroyed

the power of the gods of Egypt. He destroyed men and the result was He destroyed the gods.

The first of the Ten Commandments reads:

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:1-3

In the covenant that God gave at the mount, we read:

And in all things that I have said unto you be circumspect: and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth.

Exodus 23:13

For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. Thou shalt not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do after their works: but thou shalt utterly overthrow them, and quite break down their images.

Exodus 23:23-24

Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me: for if thou serve their gods, it will surely be a snare unto thee.

Exodus 23:32-33

If you look up the word “gods” in your concordance, you will find that Israel was always and forever bowing down and serv-

ing, or worshipping, other gods. The result was always the same: conquest and servitude under other people. Whenever Israel got it into their minds and hearts that there was some other god than Jehovah, they were then taken captive by other people.

Jeremiah the prophet was sent to Israel while they were in sin and iniquity.

Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

Jeremiah 5:1

Jeremiah goes on condemning them for being a sin-filled people:

How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.

Jeremiah 5:7

Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the Lord; it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. Their quiver is as an open sepulchre, they are all mighty men. And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword. Nevertheless in those days, saith the Lord, I will not make a full end with you. And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the Lord

our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours.

Jeremiah 5:15-19

Israel served other gods, so God made Israel serve other people.

But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

Jeremiah 5:23-24

The preaching in most churches tells how the devil rules over you, over kingdoms, and over hell. This builds up another god which does not exist. So Israel is made to fear "the devil." That is why this passage tells us that they don't say in their heart "let us now fear the Lord which gives us rain." They do not fear the Lord, instead they fear the devil. Many of our Israel people are, literally, under the bondage of a religious system. That bondage occurs because they have been taught to fear being placed in the hands of an evil, wicked god, if they don't obey that religious system. That is what God is speaking of in these next verses:

Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule [or take into their hands] by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Jeremiah 5:29-31

What means do the priests use to take control? They use false teachings. It is true today that God's people in Israel allow the grossest iniquities and sins in their lands, because they have been taught by the ministers that Jesus put away the Law. These ministers are prophesying falsely.

We are told by these false prophets that God will curse you if you oppose a Jew. The result is that Jewish con men, swindlers, stock manipulators, land fraud artists, and Jewish destroyers of our race and our culture have taken control of our society and even our government. The prophets prophesy-falsely. What will God do with you if you do anything against the Jews? The ministers say, He will send you to Hell and put you in the clutches of the devil, who will torment you for ever and ever. That fear is on millions of our people. If they knew that God, alone, exists and that God is merciful, they would not fall for such nonsense.

As an illustration of this, let me relate an experience I had some time ago. I attended a meeting over on the west side where Archaeologist Ray Capt was showing a film. I had opened the meeting in prayer and closed it. As I left, a couple followed me out into the parking lot. They asked me some questions about what kind of a secret organization we were. The woman spoke up and said: "I've gone to other meetings like this and they talk all about the Bible but then when they finally get down to it they say the Jews aren't Israelites. That seems to be their main message." I replied "Well, we're not secret. I have a church over in Scottsdale and a radio ministry. No one is hiding anything. It is just that we know that the Jews are anti-Christ and they are not the Israel people. They're not God's 'chosen people'." When I said this they physically backed away from me about five or six feet and let

out a very audible gasp. They said, “Oh, you're going to hell if you believe that about the Jews.”

Do you think that this fear of the devil and hell is not a control mechanism? It is. It causes our people to allow things to take place in the land that would not take place if they knew the truth about the

devil and about hell. This couple was actually afraid that God would turn them over to the devil. We talked for a few more moments and it was obvious I could get nowhere with them with any kind of truth because they were afraid of “going to hell.” The devil doctrine had caused them to lose touch with reality.
