

### 3. Paul's Gospel Part 2 (Rom. 5.12-8.39)

#### a) The Story of Salvation 5.12-8.39

##### (i) 5.12-21 *The second witness: Adam*

- Death is the consequence of human disobedience, which is Adam's (5.12-14)
- But Jesus and Adam are not equivalents – Jesus, as the manifestation of the grace of God, brings more benefits than Adam brought disbenefits (5.15-21)
- The Law again seen as a diagnostic tool (5.20-21)

##### (ii) 6.1-23 *Sin's Power Broken*

- Being in Jesus means turning from sin not continuing to live in it (6.1-4). Behavioural standards will be expected (cp. the argument about Israel as light to the Gentiles, earlier).
- Sin has no more *de jure* power, though it may have *de facto* power, like phantom pain from an amputated limb. 'Consider yourselves dead to sin' (6.11).
- Sin has no actual power (6.12-14)
- But this doesn't lead to a 'Law-free' position (antinomian).
- Righteousness as the new master (6.15-23, cp. 1.1 – Paul the slave of Jesus)

*(iii) 7.1-25 The Role of the Law*

- The death of Jesus sets humans free from the demands of the law, as death sets a spouse free from marriage obligations to the dead partner (7.1-3) It's rarely noticed here that Paul chooses an analogy which implies bereavement, which is how many Jews must have felt at the end of the Law. On the other hand he's also equating marriage with slavery!
- Law can tend to legalism, though Paul doesn't say this directly. Law can only diagnose sin, it cannot cure it (7.4-25).
- There is no human way out – but when all looks hopeless, Jesus rescues us (7.24-25).

*(iv) 8.1-39 No More Condemnation – God's Triumph*

- Paul expands the thought in 7.24-25. The Holy Spirit living within the believers enables them to live lives free of the effects of slavery to sin (= 'flesh', 8.1-11).
- Adopted as children of God and heirs (8.12-17)...
- ...but heirs share the inheritance, and that includes suffering (8.17-25), including participation in the birth-pangs of God's new world.
- The role of hope (8.24-25).
- We are not alone – the Spirit intercedes with groans (8.26-27, cp. 8.22).
- God draws all things together and his love triumphs over sin and death (8.31-39, cp. Revelation: no single image is enough to capture the whole truth).

But the issue of the Law and the place of Israel in the purpose of God remains. This is what Paul now goes on to explore in Romans 9-11.