**Romans 6:15-7:25 – Old defeats and new hope; as easy as 1, 2, 3**

**1) Victory in Christ is not automatic**

**2) Living by the Law will never lead to victory**

**3) MAIN: The best life is lived by grace**

**1. Holy and unholy servants 6:15-19**

* **“Because we’re under grace, is it ok to sin?” - 15**
* **“No, because sin enslaves you!” - 16**
* **We can be “under grace” and still enslaved**
* **“Thank the Lord you (they) sincerely obeyed my(Paul’s) teachings.” – 17**
* **“Your old self was crucified (nullified) and your new self (inner person) has been “enslaved” to God.”**
* **The goal is holiness**

**2. Fruitlessness to fruitfulness 6:20-23**

* **“Fruit” here and again in 7:4 – Bad fruit to good fruit**
* **Our union with Christ is key to productivity**
* **Only a life of grace can produce truly good “fruit”**
* **The possession of life leads to the experience of life**

**3. Freedom from the Law 7:1-4**

* **Joining us to Christ was a practical move**
* **God had to move us from rules to relationship to bear fruit for God**
* **The Lordship of Christ won’t be achieved by decision or determination, but instead by grace-life**
* **The Lordship of Christ, an obedient life, starts with the grace of God. As we have seen, the Law only stirs up sin**

**4. The Old experience and the New 7:5-6**

* **Moses came face-to-face with God and His glory changed Moses.**
* **The letter (The Law) kills – 2 Cor. 3:6**
* **The Spirit gives life 2 Cor. 3:6-18**
* **Relationship changes us; rules “kill” us**

**5. Paul’s experience with the Law 7:7-12**

* **The Law shows sin is sinful - 7**
* **The Law “gives life” to sin - 8**
* **The Law brings a type of “death” in us – 10**
* **Sin deceives us (Heb. 3:12-13). Sin makes us think it’s better than it is.**
  + **There are many forms of sin/temptations/fears which are particularly deceitful and hardening:**
    - **the desire for comfort and material security**
    - **the desire for acceptance and recognition**
    - **the desire to avoid hardship and suffering for God**
  + **Sin makes us think it’s better than it is.**
* **The Law “takes the life” out of a believer – 9-11**
* **The Law is “holy, just, and good” – 12**

**7. What the Law is designed to do 7:12-14**

* **The Law brings death to show the bad effects of sin – 13**
* **The Law helps us to see that we are sinful and in bondage – 14**

**8. Fighting a losing battle with the flesh 7:15-25**

* **Left to ourselves, we cannot do what we want to do – 15-16**
* **Our bondage does not come from the “real us” – 17**
* **There is nothing spiritually good in our flesh – 18**
* **Left to ourselves, believers will keep sinning, in spite of what the “real us” would want to do – 19-20**
* **Paul’s teaching runs counter to some popular beliefs about Christian living**
* **Paul realized an important principle: Believers live with persistent, enslaving evil, alongside a part of them that wants to do good – 20**
* **Believers “delight” in God’s law in their inner person – 22**
* **There is another principle at work within the body of all Christians that wars with them and “enslaves” them; left to ourselves, we lose! – 23; Gal. 5:17**
* **So, the normal Christian life, apart from help, is failure – 23; Gal. 5:16-18**
* **This punishment, or enslavement, leads to emotional frustration – 24**
* **Not surprisingly, victory comes through Jesus Christ! - 25**