

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find new, interesting, confusing, convicting, etc. in the reading this week?

1. Sunday, May 28; Rom. 7:1-6; Dead to the Law, Alive By the Spirit. Read the passage with notes. In verses 1-3, Paul discusses release from the law. How are the Jews now qualified to be released (4)? What kind of mind-set change is needed to transfer from one way of thinking and behaving to another? What is the purpose of changing our perspective of the law (4b)? What did the law do for those who were subject to it (5)? What is the first step to freedom and release from the law (6a)? What is the second step (6b)? **Personal Application:** Reflect on your past and any law to which you or I might have been subject (whether self, parent, or church inflicted). Why is it best to be released from the law (4)? How was your mind changed and transformed?

2. Monday, May 29; Rom. 7:7-12; Law Points out Our Sins. Read passage and notes. What good purpose does the law fulfill (7)? What prompted sin in Paul (8)? What promotes sin in you or me? In verses 9-10, Paul sees the stages of his life—before knowledge of sin and after knowledge of sin. What event or era in your life brought you or me knowledge of our sin? What is sin's greatest pleasure (11)? Why are the commandments and law still holy, righteous, and good? **Personal Application:** Why is the Law more of a museum treasure than something to be used in everyday life? What shall be our daily life compass and guide then?

3. Tuesday, May 30; Rom. 7:13-20; Sin: I Do What I Don't Want To Do and Don't Do What I Do Want To Do. Read the passage and notes. How is sin recognized (13)? At what point did sin become "utterly sinful" (13b)? How do you and I, in our basic, unredeemed state, differ from the law (14)? What is Paul's dilemma as he confronts his basic sin nature (15)? What realization does Paul have regarding his sin nature (16)? Is Paul (or you or I) able to control our sin nature (17-20)? Why or why not? **Personal Application:** Think of some examples of the truth of verse 15 in your life or mine. How are we overcomers and victorious over sin?

4. Wednesday, May 31; Rom. 7:21-25; Christ Alone Can Deliver Us from Our Plight. Read passage and notes. What is the dilemma when we operate in our flesh (21-23)? Is there any hope for us when left to ourselves (24)? From whence cometh our help (25a)? What does Paul reiterate regarding the sinful state of humanity (25b)? **Personal Application:** Regarding sin, is it mind of matter or matter over mind or both (25)? Explain.

5. Thursday, June 1; Rom. 8:1-4; No Condemnation for Those in Christ Jesus! Read the passage with notes. Why is 8:1 such Good News? What is the "law of the spirit" and what has it done (2)? Why couldn't the law save us (3a)? How did God intervene (3b)? How did Jesus Christ condemn sin in the flesh (3c)? How is the "righteous requirement of the law fully met in us" (4)? **Personal Application:** Why are verses 1-2 meaningful to you and to me? How can you or I take the words "no condemnation" to heart? Why is this important? What guilt or shame can be put to rest at last in your life or mine?

6. Friday, June 2; Rom. 8:5-9, 13; Life in the Flesh versus Life in the Spirit. Read passage with notes. Make two headings: "Flesh" and "Spirit". Place the descriptions of Life in the Flesh or Life in the Spirit under the correct heading (5-9, 13). **Personal Application:** How do you or I practice Life in the Spirit? Is there any part of your being or mine that still entertains Life in the Flesh? How do we put this to rest once and for all?

7. Saturday, June 3; Rom. 8: 10-12, 14-17; We are Children of God Led by the Spirit. Read the passage with notes. What benefits do we receive because the Spirit lives in us (10-11)? What title do those who are led by the Spirit have (14)? What is our new status (15)? How are we confident of this relationship (16)? What is our inheritance (17)? **Personal Application:** Make a list of our titles/status now that we live by the Spirit. How does this change your life or mine from our former state (7:15)?

Cindy Oury. May 27, 2017.