

Introduction:

- **Examples of Paul's use of "Certainly not!"** in this epistle: 3:4, 6, 31; 6:2, 15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11.
- **Paul is not an antinomian** ("anti-law" advocates say we don't have to obey God's moral law as Christians). Paul commends God's law as good for us. See Rom 3:31; 13:8-10.
- **We are, however, free from the condemnation of the law we experienced in Adam**, having died to sin with Christ—being born of God's Spirit & His word. In Christ, there is no condemnation.
- **The issue that we come to here is:** *we are not free from the struggle against sin remaining in us.*
- **However, sin will not dominate us because of Christ our Lord.** We must conquer it by the power of the indwelling Spirit of God & His holy Word.
- **Because Paul stated that God's law arouses sinful passions within us**, some might argue that the law is evil for doing so. In this section, he argues that the law is not to blame. Rather, the law brings sin out into the spotlight and exposes it for what it truly is—so that we, as believers, might long for Christ Jesus to deliver us from sin's corrupting influence in our lives.

OUTLINE

1A GOD'S LAW IS CERTAINLY NOT SIN, vv7-12

1B Nothing God expresses could ever be *unholy*.

2B Nothing sin expresses could ever be *holy*.

2A GOD'S LAW HAS CERTAINLY NOT BECOME DEATH TO ME, vv13-20

1B Because God's law provokes sin in me doesn't make it *evil*.

2B By provoking sin, God's law *exposes* the sin in my fallen nature.

3B Sin only operates *in one direction*. | "...sin is lawlessness," 1 Jn 3:4.

3A WHO WILL DELIVER ME FROM THIS "BODY OF DEATH"? vv21-25

1B There are "*pockets*" of sin in us as believers.

2B Only Jesus can *deliver us* from these "pockets" of sin in us.