

MORNING WORSHIP CELEBRATION

The Lord's Day

March 20, 2022

10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements: Pastor Jeff Birch

Prelude: Mrs. Amy Reber

Open Our Eyes

By Bob Cull, arranged by Tom Keene

Call to Worship: Psalm 66:1-4

The Invocation

***Hymn of Praise 44**

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God,
When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds
Thy hands have made,
I see the stars,
I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r thro'out
The universe displayed.

Chorus

Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul,
My Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art!

When thro' the woods
And forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
Sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down
From lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook
And feel the gentle breeze; (*chorus*)

And when I think
That God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die,
I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross,
My burden gladly bearing,

He bled and died
To take away my sin. (*chorus*)

When Christ shall come
With shout of acclamation
And take me home,
What joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow
In humble adoration
And there proclaim:
My God, how great Thou art! (*chorus*)

Confession of Sin:

Need of Confession: Psalm 130:1-3

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

² O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

Personal Confession of Sin

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Unison: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen. (Book of Common Worship)

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 130:4

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.

***Song of Praise**

We Will Feast at the House of Zion

Chorus

We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
He has done great things, we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the Lord, our God.
We are not consumed by the flood;
Upheld, protected, gathered up. (*chorus*)

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
My soul, be not afraid.
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh, God of Jacob, be my strength. (*chorus*)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,
You are the faithful one.
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring shalom. (*chorus*)

The Lord's Prayer / Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come: thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory: Chancel Choir

God of Heaven
By Heather Sorensen

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

(During this song, children ages 4-6 may go to Children's Worship)

Sermon Text: Romans 7:1-6 (ESV)

Sermon Title: *The New Way of the Spirit*

7 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ² For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. ³ Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

⁴ Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

The life-shaping story for the people of God in the Old Testament was the exodus. The story of how Israel was liberated from bondage in Egypt, their bondage to slavery, their deliverance from one realm to another. Romans 6 tells the story of a new and greater exodus, a gospel exodus, whereas the people of God are delivered from the realm of sin to the realm of grace.

Now, what comes next in the story of the exodus? The people of God are brought to Mount Sinai where they receive the law, making them a privileged nation, different from every other nation, a sign that they belong to God. Paul is alluding to this foundational story and applying to the

Christians at Rome. Which means when we come to chapter 7, we are faced with the question, what about the law?

Paul is writing to a people, who through their union with Christ, have left behind the land of slavery, and have entered upon a new freedom. Paul is giving the church at Rome a new perspective on the place of the law, and the believer's relationship to the law.

What do we learn in Romans 7:1-6 about the place of the law? How does the Holy Spirit teach us about our relationship to the law?

- I. Through a Fundamental Principle
- II. Through a Surprising Twist

Reflection

"The basic premise of religion – that if you live a good life, things will go well for you – is wrong. Jesus was the most morally upright person who ever lived, yet He had a life filled with the experience of poverty, rejection, injustice, and even torture." (Tim Keller)

***Hymn 334**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what thou dost love,
And do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until my will is one with thee,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life
Of thine eternity.

***The Benediction**

Postlude

**All songs covered by CCLI license #1257045*