

Message Guide

These Message Guides may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on these messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of these Message Guides will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' messages, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 1 – The Problem of Sin Romans 6:1 - 23

1. Please read and consider Romans 6:1 - 23
What are the 2 key elements to consider?

2. What are the 2 wrong responses to sin that we find in Romans 6?

3. **Legalism**
People feel secure living by rules. Why is that?

4. Under legalism people are driven by rules and expectations that are imposed upon them; this leads to a list of what?

5. What is a tell-tale sign of legalism?

6. What is the relationship between legalism and license?

7. What are the reasons behind 'license'?

8. Essentially Paul rejected both Legalism AND License.
If legalism is wrong and license is wrong, how are we to live?
Read and consider Romans 6 verse 4.
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9. So how does the character of Christ work out in us?
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-

10. **Some things we need to know**

Read & Consider Romans 6:3 - 4

11. Read and consider Romans 6:7, 16 & 23

12. Another thing we need to know:
Read and consider Romans 6:16 - 17

13. **Some things we need to do.**

Read and consider Romans 6 v. 12

Final Thoughts

Legalism leads to a preoccupation with the outer behavior.
The reality of our inner life will always express itself in our outer behavior,
but this is the consequence of the work of God in us –
not the substance.

Paul rejects legalism, says Romans 6: 14 ,
"... you are not under law, but under grace,"

Having also rejected license, Paul sums it all up by saying:

We need to present ourselves daily to God as instruments of righteousness,
walking in newness of life.

We offer ourselves as slave to obedience . . . which leads to righteousness!

Message Guide & Questions

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 2 – Freedom From The Law Romans 7:1 - 13

1. Read and consider Romans 7:1 - 13
2. In this study we will look at 3 New Relationships into which a Christians is brought.
Do you know what they are?

3. Read again and consider verse 4.
Now, to understand it better read verses 1 - 3
4. Matthew 5:18 - 19 shows us that Jesus affirmed the Law; but what happens by the
time we get to Paul's writings....?

5. What does the Law reveal to us?
And how does the Law come to us?

6. The wonderful news is that: **A Christian Life is a New Relationship with Christ.**
So that Romans 6:4 and 6:6
7. So finally; **A Christian Has a New Relationship to Purpose.**
Read and consider Romans 7:4

Final Thoughts

If we had to live under the Law our spiritual life would be artificial.
We may aspire to Christian Living, but we would not be able to live it.

The New Relationship With Christ is no longer with external laws and commandments;
but it is with the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us, who writes that law in our hearts.

Commands imposed by the Law of the Old Testament
are replaced by the promises given in the New Covenant.

The New Covenant relocates the requirements of the law from tablets of stone
to placing them in our hearts, by placing the Holy Spirit of God within us.

It is a liberating truth!
If we are not consciously living in the Spirit
with dependence on God being our source of our living and fruit –
we will be in bondage.

In our next study we will explore this more fully.

Message Guide & Questions

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 3 – The 3 Spiritual Laws Romans 7:14 - 8:2

1. Read and consider Romans 7:14 to 8:4
2. Paul explains this dilemma by the interplay of 3 spiritual laws, all found in Romans 7. What are those laws?

3. **The Law of God**
Read and consider Romans 7:7
4. **The Law of Sin**
Read and consider Romans 7:22 - 23
5. **The Law of the Spirit if Life**
Read and consider Romans 8:2
6. To understand the 'interplay' between these laws we need to look more closely at these scriptures. Romans 7:14 - 17
Read these verses slowly, and think carefully about what they say.
7. To try to understand what is really going on here we need to look at Romans 7:21 - 23
8. Romans 7 reveals a person trying to live by their own resources.
Read and consider Romans 7:15 – 24. What is the recurring theme here?

9. But Romans 8 reveals something else entirely.
Read and consider Romans 8:9 and 8:2

Final Thoughts

The law of God - **reveals** what is right.

Whereas

The law of sin - **resists** what is right.

This is the nature of our fallen humanity.

It creates this **duality**, this **civil war** in our souls.

Don't make the mistake of asking God to give you strength!

Please look at these important scriptures:

Exodus 15:2

Psalm 28:7

Psalm 118:14

Isaiah 12:2

Isaiah 33:2

Habakkuk 3:19

God does give us strength - but it is HIS Strength in us.

Message Guide & Questions

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 4 – Living By The Spirit Romans 8:5 - 17

1. Read and consider Romans 8:5 - 17
2. In trying to determine what Christian living IS, we must look at what Christian living is NOT. It is not:
 - a. A P _____ of life.
 - b. A mere T _____
 - c. A L _____
 - d. Nor is it making a H ____ of J _____, or trying to E _____ Him.
3. It is the Holy Spirit who is the E _____ of the Christian life.
4. We are going to look at three things that the Spirit who indwells us does. Read and consider Romans 8:5
5. Compare the results of a mind fixed on things of the Spirit (verse 6b) with a mind that is fixed on things of the flesh (verse 7).
6. Read and consider: Romans 8:12 - 13
7. Now read and consider: Romans 8:15 - 16
8. What are the three negative responses that we can make to the Holy Spirit?
 1. R _____
 2. G _____
 3. Q _____

Final Thoughts

It is very important that we are clear about what scripture says about the Holy Spirit's indwelling a believer.

Please look closely at Romans 8:9

It is **His active presence** [not metaphoric] that makes a Christian; and apart from His presence we are 'spiritually dead'.

Romans 8 speaks of the **whole TRINITY** indwelling us:

v.9 "... if the Spirit of God lives in you."

v.10 "But if Christ is in you."

v.11 "... if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you."

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ he/she does not belong to Christ!

Message Guide & Questions

Living The Life [from Romans]

Part 5 – Living In Hope

Romans 8:17 - 25

1. Read and consider Romans 8:15 - 25
Which do you think are the 'key' verses?

2. The title 'Living In Hope' can sound like lacking in confidence, and yet it is one of the three great virtues mentioned by Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:13.
3. However, hope is one of the most important qualities in our lives, and H _____ is one of the most D _____.
4. Read and consider what Paul has to say in Romans 8:17 & 18.
What is Paul doing in these verses?

5. In the Christian experience there is a 'Seen & Unseen', a 'Present & Future, and a 'Now & Not Yet' aspect; and it is very difficult not to confuse them.

We will briefly look at these in five different areas, starting with -

1. INTELLECTUALLY - In the realm of knowledge

NOW: God has revealed Himself in Creation, Conscience, Scripture and Jesus Christ. Romans 1:20

NOT YET: A mark of maturity is to know that we don't know many things.
Read 1 Corinthians 13:9 and 1 John 3:2

2. MORALLY - In the realm of behavior

NOW: Romans 5:1, Romans 8:9 and I Corinthians 6:11

NOT YET: Philippians 3:12 and 1 John 3:2

3. SOCIALLY - In the realm of society

NOW: Matthew 5:16

NOT YET: Micah 4:3 and Revelation 11:15

4. PHYSICALLY - In the realm of physical well-being.

NOW: Romans 8:23 and Hebrews 2:14

NOT YET: Revelation 21:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:54

5. CORPORATELTY- In the realm of the church

NOW: 1Corinthians 12:13 and 1 Timothy 3:15

NOT YET: Revelation 19:7 and 21:2

6. So - there are three kinds of Christians:

a. The O _____

b. The P _____

c. The R _____

Final Thoughts

It would appear that a general rule of life is: no suffering - no glory!

We need to be confident of what is **NOW**,
and patient about what is **NOT YET**
- but will be one day!

In our suffering, God has given us **reason to live** with confidence.

We know the **final destiny** of the lives of the children of God –

and the best is yet to come.

So we live with **hope** –
and that equips us to **live in the present.**

Do YOU face each day with hope?

Is it actually a source of joy and peace in the present?

Read and cherish Romans 15:13

Message Guide & Questions

**Living The Life [from Romans]
Part 6 – Three Questions For Distressed Christians
Romans 8:26 - 39**

1. Read and consider Romans 8:26 - 39
2. From the following scriptures in Romans 8, identify four 'troubling' issues that could cause, or contribute to, stress.
 - a. v.18 _____
 - b. v. 21 _____
 - c. v.23 _____
 - d. v.26 _____

3. So Paul asks three questions that address our stresses.

Question 1 - Romans 8:31

4. How is God for us?
Read and consider Romans 8:28

5. What are the sources of the 'things' that Romans 8:28 speaks of?
Let's look at these sources.

- a. 1 Thessalonians 2:18 _____
- b. Romans 1:18 _____
- c. Romans 8:20 _____

6. **Question 2 - Romans 8:33**

7. The court scene is this:

G __ is the J _____

Y - - are in the D _____

The D _____ is the A _____

J _____ C _____ is the D _____ L _____

8. **Question 3 - Romans 8:35**

-
9. What are the seven possibilities raised by Paul that might separate us from Christ's love?

T _____

H _____

P _____

F _____

N _____

D _____

S _____

10. We must remember that not being separated from the love of God through the most difficult of circumstances **does not mean that we are exempt from going through such difficult circumstances.**

Final Thoughts

And to end on a **really** positive note:

Romans 8:38 - 39 gives us 10 more possibilities
that will NOT separate us from the Love of God.

Listed in a set of contrasts

Paul says he is convinced that:-

Neither death - nor life

Neither angels - nor demons

Neither the present - nor the future

Nor any powers

Neither height - nor depth

[and just in case anything is left out]

nor anything else in all creation

This list covers -

Everything visible Everything invisible

Everything temporal Everything eternal

Everything present Everything future

NOTHING will separate us from the love of God!

Yes, life will hurt us from time to time.

We will weep; we will feel pain.

But God has not reneged on any promises that He has made.

Remember:

In the midst of everything

We are more than conquerors

because of the unfailing love of God towards us.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

These Leader's Guides are prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 1 – The Problem of Sin Romans 6:1 - 23

1. The two key elements in this passage are:
 - a. How do I live this Christian life?
 - b. How do I deal with sin?
2. The wrong responses to sin found in Romans 6 are:
 - a. Legalism and b. License
3. Rules are:
 - a. Easy to identify
 - b. Easy to measure
4. Should do . . . Shouldn't do.
Must do . . . Mustn't do in other words '**legalism**'
5. The tell-tale sign of legalism is people who begin to insist that everyone else should act and dress in the same way as they do; and they judge other people accordingly.
6. License is the opposite to legalism, and license is also rejected by Paul.
Read and consider Romans 6 verse 15
7. The reasons behind license are:
God is kind, merciful and gracious.
Because I am justified, I am eternally saved.
Because of God's unfailing love there is plenteous redemption.
Read and consider Psalm 130:7
This may not actually be a person's **theology**, but it is likely to be the **attitude** of many people.
8. Our **new life** as Christians should be evidenced with accompanying **new** appetites, desires and energies.
The new life should not operate by the external imposition of rules and laws; but rather by the internal expression of the life of God, being true to His nature and expressing His character.
9. There are two things that are vital to producing this:
 - a. There are some things we need to know.
 - b. There are some things we need to do.
10. We need to walk in **that newness of life**.
11. Having been baptized into His death, we have been set free from sin.
12. God has blessed us with an 'alarm system', called 'conscience'.
It is one of the most important, yet fragile, parts of our make up.
Read 1 Timothy 1:19
13. The list of negative 'do not's' lead us to the positive 'do'.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 2 – Freedom From The Law Romans 7:1 - 13

1. In Romans 8:1 Paul make a magnificent statement which he links by using the word 'therefore', to the previous verses we read.
2.
 - a. A Christian is in a New Relationship with the Law
 - b. A Christian is in a New Relationship with Christ
 - c. A Christian is in a New Relationship to His Purpose
3. Law has power over us only while we are alive.
Legally, a person can not be tried for a crime posthumously.
4. When we get to Paul's writings the Law has become a dirty word.
Consider the following scriptures:

Galatians 3:10, 3:12, 3:13, 3:23; Romans 7:4 and 7:6
5. The Law - reveals to us the moral character of God.
The Law - comes to us externally in the form of commands.

So the Law exposes our sins.
If we had to live under the Law our spiritual life would be artificial.
We may aspire to Christian Living, but we would not be able to live it.
We would be reduced to trying to keep a series of rules.
6. The New Relationship With Christ is no longer with external laws and commandments; but it is with the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us, who writes that law in our hearts.

Commands imposed by the Law of the Old Testament are replaced by the promises given in the New Covenant.

Read and consider Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:27.

The New Covenant relocates the requirements of the law from tablets of stone to placing them in our hearts, by placing the Holy Spirit of God within us.
7. 'That we might bear fruit' now becomes the theme and purpose of our lives.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 3 – The 3 Spiritual Laws Romans 7:14 - 8:2

1. Have you ever wondered why you behave as you do?
Consider again Romans 7:15 and 19

Do you have this problem?
If we are honest most of us, if not all, do.
2.
 - a. The Law of God
 - b. The Law of Sin
 - c. The Law of the Spirit of Life
3. This is the **moral law** given by God to Moses. And it is good!
Read Romans 7:12
4. This second law is an enemy of the moral law of God, as it operates in our fallen nature, as 'the flesh' wages war against the law of my mind, making me a prisoner of the law of sin.
5. This third law fights the 'law of sin', to set us free from its power.
6. This sounds like a cop-out. It is not 'my' fault that I do these things; it is the fault of the sin that is in me.
7. Paul is not talking about sin as 'actions', but rather as a 'principle'.
8. In just 10 verses you will find 'I', 'me' or 'my' no less than 38 times.
No **God**, no **Holy Spirit**, no **indwelling Christ** - just ME.
9. This describes a person who is the **complete opposite** of what we are by nature.
He has **new appetites and new desires**.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 4 – Living By The Spirit Romans 8:5 - 17

1. In this study we will take a closer look concerning **our role, responsibilities** and **disciplines** with regards to working in co-operation with the Holy Spirit
2. Christian living is NOT.....
 - a. A **philosophy** of life.
 - b. A mere **theology**
 - c. A **lifestyle**
 - d. Nor is it making a **hero** of **Jesus** or trying to **emulate** Him.
3. It is the Holy Spirit who is the **Energy** of the Christian life.
We cannot live the Christian life without the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in us; and this requires discipline, our co-operation, and an understanding of our responsibilities.

Read – Romans 8:4 – 5; 8:12 - 13
4. From this verse we learn that:
 1. **The Spirit gives new Desires**
Our minds become taken up with what the Spirit desires.
What does the Spirit desire? Read verse 4; and also Philippians 2:13

The Holy Spirit gives us the mind of God; and for this reason it is imperative to spend time in the Word of God, or else we will not know what the Spirit desires.
5. Compare the results of a mind fixed on things of the Spirit. - verse 6b
There is Life/Order/Security and a sense of peace.

With a mind that is fixed on things of the flesh. - v.7
A growing distance and hostility towards God that will express itself in hostility toward others.
6. This shows us that:
 2. **The Spirit Gives New Determination**
It is not an option, but rather an obligation, that we put to death the misdeeds of our sinful nature. We must knock them on the head!

If we want to grow, we have to deal with sin seriously, properly and promptly.
The Holy Spirit indwelling us, helps us with this.
7. And this shows us that:
 3. **The Spirit Gives New Dynamic**

The Holy Spirit in the **active presence** within us by which we **know** we belong to Jesus Christ.

We cannot adequately **explain** this; we only **experience** it.

The inner working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts cannot be mimicked or falsified.

The essential work of the Holy Spirit is to make God real, close, and give this sense of being loved and connected.

8. The three negative responses that we can make to the Holy Spirit are:

1. **We can Resist Him** - Acts 7:51

Unbelievers whom the Holy Spirit reveals and convicts.

2. **We can Grieve Him.** - Ephesians 4:30

We grieve Him when we refuse to let Him do in us the purpose for which He was given us.

3. **We can Quench Him.** - 1 Thessalonians 5:19

Don't throw a bucket of cold water over His work.

We can do all this, and strangle His work.

This is why we need to keep in close, clear fellowship so that He can do His work in us - which alone make the Christian life possible.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Living The Life [from Romans] Part 5 – Living In Hope Romans 8:17 – 25

1. The key verses are v 24 - 25
2.
 - a. We understand **Love** - the greatest virtue.
 - b. We understand Faith - a necessary virtue.
 - c. But **Hope** seems not in the same league, or have the same force or importance.

The word **hope** sounds uncertain, ambiguous, tentative, vague.

3. However, hope is one of the most important qualities in our lives, and **hopelessness** is one of the most **destructive**
4. Psychologists spend hours unwrapping people's pasts, but in reality it is in their sense of future that gives meaning to life.
Paul compares and contrasts present suffering with future glory.

See also 2 Corinthians 4:17

5.
 1. NOW - There is no need to flounder in darkness.
NOT YET - We need more confidence about what is revealed, and more humility about what is not revealed.
 2. NOW - We are being changed from one degree of glory to another.
NOT YET - We are not yet in complete conformity to the image of His Son.
 3. NOW - We are called to be, now, the salt and light in this world.
NOT YET - The words of Micah 4:3 are on the wall of the entrance hall to the United Nations - but will never be true in this era.
The words of Revelation 11:15 are not true in this present era.
 4. NOW - Death has been conquered and destroyed.
NOT YET - Our bodies are not yet redeemed. We WILL be physically perfect one day - but not yet!
 5. NOW - The church is established and active on the earth.
NOT YET - We are not yet a perfect church here on earth.
6. So - there are three kinds of Christians:
 - a. The **Optimist**. Is into the NOW - Rejoices in all that we have in Christ, but looks for it all **now** - Is in danger of looking for no sin and no sickness etc.
 - b. The **Pessimist**. Is into the NOT YET - They 'grin and bear it' now. They 'wait' - Looking to 'the sweet bye and bye' to start enjoying things.
 - c. The **Realist**. Lives in the tension of the **Now/Not Yet**

So we live by **faith**, for the **present** [which we must].

But we also live in **hope**, for the **future** [which we also must]

The **Devil** is the **Accuser**
Jesus Christ is the **Defense Lawyer**

The devil makes the charges - Jesus Christ answers them.
 God judges in our favour. So you are freed - no condemnation!

8. Question 3 - Romans 8:35
 Shall anyone separate us from the love of Christ?
 This is a fear that many people have.
9. These are the seven possibilities raised by Paul that might separate us from Christ's love:
- Trouble
 - Hardship
 - Persecution
 - Famine
 - Nakedness
 - Danger
 - Sword

These are seven things that threaten and hurt us, so why do you think Paul lists them here? Because **when people go through these things they often question the love of God, and the presence of God.**

Paul did not create an arbitrary list of things that he thought might apply. He listed experiences that he personally had actually gone through.

This is not some theory which looks good on paper, but rather his own experience. And from experience Paul could testify that **not even for one moment had he ever been separated from God's love.**

Read and, if necessary, memorize Romans 8:37

10. Indeed, it is often when we experience trouble and difficulties that we experience the presence and love of God so much more real than when all is well.
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| We experience His comfort | - when we need comforting |
| We experience His security | - when are afraid |
| We experience His presence | - when we feel alone |

**When everything else is stripped away,
 we find God to be most real!**