

Reckoning Life

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 7:4.
- B. One of the problems a new Christian is confronting the power of sin in him.
- C. The other problem is that the expectations God lays upon them appear very difficult.

II. The law is good, holy and spiritual. (Galatians 3)

- A. Everyone who does not fulfill all the requirements of the law is under a curse.
- B. While the law is good we are continually cursed when we do not fulfill every single requirement of it.
- C. The good news is that the law has been cancelled.

III. Christ is the end of the law.

- A. We no longer have obligations towards the law.
- B. The principle of the Christian life is not self-effort. This is the flesh.
- C. We must come to the end of our own self-effort. This dies when we are in Christ.
- D. The new relationship is "marriage to Christ."
 - 1. We are to respect Jesus Christ for whom he is--the Lord.
 - 2. Marriage is lovely because two people come together out of desire.
 - 3. There is mutual availability out of love.
 - 4. The exciting thing about the Christian life is that since Jesus has risen all of his resurrection power has been made available to us.

IV. The inevitable result of the Christian life—of Jesus releasing his life into us--is fruit.

Application questions:

1. Why was it necessary to cancel the law even though it is good?

2. What does the Christian life that is obliged to the law look like?

3. Why is "marriage" a fitting metaphor for our relationship with Christ? Explain.
