**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Learning to Possess Your Possessions |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 7:1-4 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2060 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. Many Christians are not living up to their profession in Christ.
		1. Many people are saved, but they don’t act like it.
		2. They’re not living victorious lives.
		3. There seems to be a contradiction between what the Bible says they are in Christ and what they are in reality.
			1. The Bible says that we are complete in the Lord Jesus Christ.
				1. Colossians 2:10
				2. We don’t have need of anything in the spiritual realm.
			2. The Bible says, concerning those of us who are saved, that we are overcomers.
				1. 1 John 5:4
				2. Yet, most believers live as though they are overcome, not overcomers.

They are victims rather than victors.

* + - 1. The Bible says that when we’re saved, we have peace that passes understanding and joy unspeakable and full of glory.
				1. Philippians 4:7
				2. 1 Peter 1:8
				3. John 4:14
				4. Are you completely satisfied in the Lord Jesus?
			2. The Bible teaches that in Christ we are more than conquerors.
				1. Romans 8:37
				2. Are you more than a conqueror?
	1. Where is the problem between the Bible and our reality?
		1. Do you think that you’re right, and the Bible is wrong?
		2. Many of us want to dumb down the Bible to match our lives rather than bring our lives up to the Bible.
	2. In our Christian lives, we need to bring our lives up to the standard that God has for us.
		1. We are overcomers.
		2. We do have peace that passes understanding.
		3. We need not make the Bible match our lives but to make our lives match the Bible.
	3. The answer to this problem is found in two key words:
		1. Provision
			1. This is what God does.
			2. God has made provision for us.
		2. Appropriation
			1. God’s provision for us does us no good until we appropriate what He has done for us.
	4. What is the difference between provision and appropriation?
		1. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He died for the world.
			1. 1 John 2:2
				1. “Propitiation” means “satisfaction.”
				2. Jesus is the satisfaction for our sins and the sins of the whole world.
			2. John 1:29
		2. If Jesus died for the sins of the world, then why is there still sin in the world?
			1. Because people have not appropriated what Jesus did on the cross.
				1. They have not possessed their possessions.
			2. John 3:18
			3. Provision has been made, but people have not appropriated that which is theirs.
		3. Provision is on one hand, and appropriation is on the other hand.
		4. When we get saved, we are crucified with Christ.
			1. When Jesus died, His death had our name on it.
			2. Colossians 3:3
			3. Colossians 3:5
				1. “Mortify” means “put to death.”
				2. This is not a contradiction from Colossians 3:3, which says that we are already dead.

Technically, we are dead with Christ.

Practically, we must appropriate what we have in the Lord Jesus.

* + 1. Joshua 1:3
			1. The children of Israel came out of Egypt and were going into Canaan.
				1. They were coming out of the land of bondage into the land of blessing.
			2. This verse does not say, “Will I give it to you,” but it says, “I have already given it to you.”
				1. The land was theirs, but they had to possess their possessions.
		2. As Christians, we have so much that we have not yet possessed.
		3. There is God’s provision, but there must be our appropriation.
			1. It doesn’t matter what God has done for us; if we don’t appropriate it, then it won’t be ours.
		4. If a person has books in their library at home that they haven’t yet read, the books are theirs, but they haven’t possessed our possessions.
			1. The books are there, but they’re doing us no good.
			2. We haven’t appropriated that which is ours.
	1. Romans 7:1-4
		1. By divine inspiration, the Apostle Paul gives us an object lesson.
		2. Paul gives us the story of a woman who is married to a man; Paul is making an analogy.
			1. The woman is married to Mr. Law.
				1. The law of the Lord is perfect, so she’s married to a perfect man.

Psalm 19:7

* + - * 1. Mr. Law is a very rigid man with extremely high standards.

Each day he tells her what to do and what not to do.

* + - 1. The woman’s intentions are good.
				1. She intends to obey her husband and do everything that he tells her to do.
				2. But in the course of the day, she realizes that she did not do everything he told her to do.

And she did some things he told her not to do.

* + - 1. When the husband finds out that she did not do all that she was supposed to do an did some things that she wasn’t supposed to do, he scolds her.
				1. She feels guilty and promises to do better tomorrow.
			2. He gives her instructions for tomorrow.
				1. When he returns home, he finds that she’s failed again.
			3. After a while, she decides that she doesn’t want to be married to a perfect man because she can’t please him.
				1. She cannot get out of the marriage.

God’s plan is not that way.

* + - * 1. She is married to him as long as they live.
			1. She decides to wait until Mr. Law dies, and then she’ll be free.
				1. She now wants to marry Mr. Love.
				2. But Mr. Law is not going to die.

Matthew 5:18

* + - 1. She then realizes that if she dies, then she can be married to Mr. Love.
		1. Romans 7:4
			1. When Paul mentions the body of Christ in this verse, he is talking about the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.
		2. Paul is saying in this passage that by nature, we are married to the law.
			1. The law makes demands upon us that we can’t meet, no matter how hard we try.
		3. But when Jesus Christ died, we died with Him.
			1. We became dead to the law by the body of Christ.
			2. We died with Him, we were buried with Him, and we are raised with Him.
				1. We have a new life.
		4. We are the bride of Christ.
	1. Today’s message will show us steps that we can take to possess our possessions.
1. learn dying and start living
	1. We will never possess our possessions until we come to the end of ourselves.
		1. The woman in Paul’s analogy had to die.
	2. We have to die to the old ways.
	3. Matthew 16:24
		1. A cross is for dying upon.
			1. It is the old man or old woman who dies so that we can become a new person.
	4. Mark 8:35
		1. When we lose our life for Jesus’ sake and the Gospel’s, then we find it.
			1. Jesus says, “Keepers weepers, losers finders.”
	5. Everyone wants to go to Heaven but nobody wants to die.
		1. We have to go through something to get to something.
		2. We have to go through death to get to Heaven.
		3. And you have to go through death to yourself to get to the victorious life.
	6. The reason many Christians are not filled with the Spirit is because they are so full of themselves that there’s not enough room for the Spirit.
		1. We have to come to the end of ourselves and learn dying so that we can start living.
	7. John 10:10
		1. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.
			1. But we can’t have this abundant life until we’re sick and tired of that old life.
			2. We can’t have this abundant life until we say that because Jesus died, we died with Him.
				1. And when He rose, we rose with Him.
2. stop trying and start trusting
	1. Paul is giving his biography as an early Christian.
	2. Romans 7:7
		1. We would not have known sin except by the law.
	3. In Romans 7:7-24, there are some words that stand out over and over again:
		1. “I”
			1. The perpendicular pronoun “I” stands out more than any other.
				1. “I,” “me,” or “my” are used over 40 times in these verses.
			2. Romans 7:7
			3. Romans 7:9
			4. Romans 7:10
			5. Romans 7:11
			6. Romans 7:13
			7. Romans 7:14
			8. Romans 7:15
		2. “Law”
			1. “Law” is used in these verses
			2. The key in these verses is Paul and the law.
			3. In Paul’s analogy, the woman is married to Mr. Law.
				1. She can’t please Mr. Law.
				2. She then marries Mr. Love.

Mr. Love is compassionate and not rigid like Mr. Law.

* + - * 1. But she finds that Mr. Love’s requirements are higher than Mr. Law’s.

Mr. Law said to go one mile, but Mr. Love said to go two miles.

Matthew 5:41

Mr. Law said, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth;” but Mr. Love said to, “Love your enemies and do good to those who persecute you.”

Deuteronomy 19:21

Matthew 5:44

* + - 1. A lost person cannot keep the law of God, and neither can a saved person by himself.
				1. Some believe that when they get saved, they won’t sin anymore.

But the old flesh rises up, and we fail.

We get caught up in a service and rededicate our lives and promise to do better; but we fail again.

* + - * 1. The devil will try to convince us that we weren’t saved at all.
				2. Romans 7:18
	1. Romans 7:21-23
		1. This is Paul’s testimony as a young, carnal Christian.
			1. Paul wasn’t a hypocrite; he loved God in his heart.
		2. Romans 7:23
			1. The law of his mind was the love that he had for God.
			2. But there was another war going on in his members:
				1. In his eyes, ears, tongue.
	2. Paul said that there are two laws:
		1. The law of sin
			1. The law of sin is the law that makes us do what we do.
				1. We are sinners.
				2. There is a principle that’s in us, and it’s called “the flesh.”
				3. We have a predisposition called the law of sin.
			2. The law of sin is like the law of gravity.
				1. It is working all the time.
				2. The law of gravity is that downward pull.
			3. Paul came to the place where he was almost brokenhearted.
				1. Romans 7:24-25

In verse 24, Paul asks who shall delivery him from the body of death.

In verse 25, he provides the answer: deliverance comes through Jesus Christ our Lord.

* + - 1. The way we live the victorious life is not by trying.
				1. It is not you and the law.
				2. God has provided a victory for us.

That victory is with Jesus Christ.

* + - 1. In the analogy of the woman who marries Mr. Love, she discovers several things:
				1. She and Mr. Love have a joint banking account.
				2. Everything Mr. Love tells her to do, he does it with her.

Every demand of God upon our life is a demand upon Jesus Christ who lives in us.

* + - 1. Deliverance comes through Jesus Christ.
				1. Romans 7:25
		1. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
			1. Romans 8:1-2
				1. In Romans 7:24-25, the Spirit is not mentioned at all.
				2. Beginning in Romans 8:1, there is a change.

Romans 8:4

Romans 8:9

In order to live the Christian life, it is the Holy Spirit of God in us.

Romans 8:2

* + - 1. The downward pull of life is like the law of gravity.
			2. But there is a new law: the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.
				1. To those who walk, not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
			3. We can’t live the Christian life on our own; God never said we could.
				1. But God can and always said He would.
			4. When we stop trying and start trusting the Lord, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus makes us free from the law of sin and death.
1. quit crying and start praising
	1. Romans 7:24
	2. We thank God through Jesus Christ.
	3. God didn’t save us to have us live a failing life.
		1. He saved us that we might live a victorious life.
		2. By His grace and for His glory, we will possess our possessions.
2. CONCLUSION
	1. Only Christians can possess their possessions.
	2. No unbeliever can live a victorious life.
		1. No unbeliever can have the Spirit of God in Him.
			1. You must be saved.
	3. In order to be saved, you must receive the gift of salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.
		1. If you come to Jesus in repentance and faith and ask Him to save you, He will.
		2. He will save you today and will keep you saved if you trust Him.
			1. Romans 10:13
	4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Acts 16:31
		4. John 3:16