**NOW WE BELONG TO JESUS**

Romans 7:1-25

Key Verse 7:4

*“So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”*

1. Read verses 1-4a. To whom is Paul speaking? Why does Paul use an analogy of marriage? How is one set free from the law of marriage (4a: 6:2)? What is the nature of our new relationship to Jesus (Isa 54:5; 2Co 11:2)?
2. Read verses 4b-6. Why did Jesus save us and make us his bride (4b)? What is the fruit of this new union (5:1; Ga 5:22-23; Jn 15:16)? What kind of fruit did we bear when we were under the law? Why? What is the difference between serving in the new way of the Spirit and serving in the old way of the law?
3. Read verses 7-13. What are the characteristics and functions of the law (7, 12-13, 3:20; Ga 3:24)? How is the 10th commandment different from the others? Why did Paul say that the commandment brought death to him?
4. Read verses 14-20. What is the inner struggle of a person who wants to do what is right (Heb 12:4)? Why is it necessary to struggle with sin (See 7:8a; Ge 4:7b)? What does this teach about the nature of mankind? About Christian life (1Ti 1:18; 6:12; 2Ti 4:7)? Why is it important to struggle with God rather than with men?
5. Read verses 21-25. What does Paul realize through this struggle and what is his cry for help (21-24)? What is the only way out of this defeated situation (25)? What is Paul's cause for joy and thanksgiving (See 25, 4, 6)? What can we learn here?