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Good News: YOU DIED!

A Trinitarian, Christ-centered paraphrase of Romans 5.20 – 7.6

When Torah came on the scene and defined relational boundaries that ought not be crossed, the boundaries got violated even more. But where violation increased, forgiveness increased even more, (21) so that, just as brokenness ruled supreme through death, so forgiveness would rule supreme through reconciliation leading to infinite life through Master Jesus.

(6.1) So does that mean we should continue violating boundaries, just so more forgiveness can happen? (2) Now that's just plain dumb. Our relational brokenness is dead and buried! What sense would there be in acting as if it's not? (3) When Master Jesus died, YOU died. When he was buried, YOU were buried. It's the simple fact you were acknowledging in your baptism. (4) The fact that we were dead and buried with him. The fact that we have been raised to a brand-new life with him. (5) The fact that sharing in his death means also sharing in his resurrection!

(6) Our old false self was crucified with him; our brokenness was destroyed so that we would be free from it forever. (7) Those who have died have already received the wages of sin, so they are free from it. (8) If we know we have died with Jesus, we know we will also live with him. (9) Because Jesus has been raised from the dead, death does not reign over him. (10) He died to brokenness, not just for himself, but for everyone. The life he now lives in Papa's presence, he lives on behalf of the whole world!

(11) So start thinking of yourself in accordance with what you really are – dead to your old broken way of life, alive with Jesus in Papa's presence. (12) Stop letting your relationship-destroying impulses control your actions. (13) Instead, give your steering wheel to Papa. Because he is the one who raised you from death to life, offer your body to him as an engine of Triune goodness.

(14) Torah teaches us that the wages of sin is death, and the good news is that now in Christ, we have received our wage in full. Because of the Triune kindness, we have now moved beyond our old slavery to brokenness and death.

(15) So now since we have been freed from sin (and the death sentence prescribed by Torah), should we just continue sinning? Grrrrr!!!! NO!!! (16) Okay, let me put this another way: It is not a choice of Obedience versus Freedom. It's a choice of WHAT we will obey: Are we going to obey that which destroys relationships (the way of death), or are we going to obey that which heals relationships (the way of life)?

(17) But we thank Papa that we no longer obey brokenness. We have a new master now, and we passionately follow him. (18) We thank Papa that we have been freed from sin/death, freed for service to reconciliation and peace. (19) Think of it in these simple terms – we CANNOT not be servants to something. We used to be servants of relational destruction, but now we are servants of reconciliation and healing.

(20) Sin is not freedom; it is slavery! When you were in slavery to sin, you were free from goodness and right relationships and peace in the world. (21) Does that sound like freedom to you? Did it do you ANY real good? All you got from that is shame and death.

(22) But now you are in slavery to Papa, free from shame and death. Now THAT'S freedom! It's healing. It's life abundant, life eternal. (25) The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of Papa is infinite aliveness in Jesus our Master.

(7.1) Listen to me, my fellow Jews: Torah is binding only until you die. (2) This is plain enough: Torah binds a married woman to her husband, but only 'until death do us part.' (3) If she hooks up with another man while her husband is alive, the law of adultery applies to her. But after her husband dies, Torah is totally cool with her marrying another man.

(4) What's happened to us is like that. Torah doesn't apply to us because in Jesus we have already died. We died so that together we might be bound not to Torah but to the crucified and risen Jesus, so that we might share in his work of bearing fruit for Papa. (5) We used to be so busy bearing fruit for death, our bodies all a-tingle with the pleasure of breaking the rules and getting away with it. (6) But now that Torah has fulfilled its function, we are free from it. Now we are bound not to words on page but to new life in the Spirit.

~ John Stonecypher