

The following letter was written by Charlie Williams, Ministry to Men Director. After many requests for him to write a book about *Ministry to Men* and after several attempts to do just that, someone suggested he simply write letters sharing some of the truths God has been teaching him during the years.

We will be posting his letters on the Ministry to Men Web site. This letter was posted on October 11, 2010

13th letter God has done it for me Romans 7: 24, 25

Watchmen Nee, in his book on Romans “The Normal Christian Life’ and Miles Stanford in his book “The Principles of Spiritual Growth” shared these truths to me over the past forty years and I’m still learning what they say. They both quote something that most if not all Christians say a number of times in their lives, which is I have died with Christ and I am raised with Him, I’ve given myself completely over to Him forever. Therefore, now I must do something for Him since He has done so much for me. That sounds so good but what am I really saying. What I’m learning from the bible and from what I’m taught from other people is that in reality what I’m saying this is that I will step away from God’s grace and put myself back under the law, not the end of it.

Grace means that God does something for me; law means I try to do something for God. God has certain holy and righteous demands which He places upon me – that is law. Now if law means that God requires something from me for their fulfillment and deliverance from law means that He no longer requires that from me but He Himself provides the way. Law implies that God requires me to do something for Him; deliverance implies that He exempted me from doing it and that is grace. He does it Himself. I need to do nothing for God, which is deliverance from law.

The trouble in Romans 7 is that man in the flesh tried to do something for God. As soon as I try to please God in that way then I place myself back under the law and the experience of Romans 7 begins to be mine.

One of the many beauties of the difference of living in Christ versus under the Law is that the law makes demands on us and leaves us helpless to fulfill them; where as Christ makes demands, but He Himself fulfills in us the very demand He made. Christ tells me in Matt. 5:18 that not one jot or title of the law will pass away, so if the law will not die I must in order to be no longer under it’s power. That is the essence of being born again. I am no longer under the law but I’m alive in Christ. Sin is still alive but Christ is my life.

God began to bring this teaching back to my mind and my heart around a year ago and I shared it with a number of men. It went something like this. I sensed God speaking to me and saying ‘Charlie, I have some requirements for your life’ and I asked Him what are they? He said ‘I require you to be perfect; to love Tammy and others even yourself unconditionally’. I responded ‘Lord, I’ve tried but I can’t and He said ‘Good my son, I know that and so I have done it for you. It is done and it is finished for you in Christ Jesus

The major difference of living under the Law or by Grace is that because of Christ, God isn’t mad at me anymore. (Hal Lindsey)