

ROMANS SERIES FOURTEEN
THE EXCHANGED LIFE
Dr. Roger Barrier
Romans 8:1-4

A 26 year-old Montreal man has succeeded in his quest to barter a single red paper-clip all the way up to a house.

SLIDE: It took almost a year and 14 trades, but Kyle MacDonald has traded a paid role in a movie for a farmhouse in Kipling, Sask., Canada. MacDonald began his quest last summer when he decided he wanted to own a house. He looked at the red paper-clip on his desk and wondered how far he could trade it on an internet website.

He got a response almost immediately- from a pair of young women in Vancouver who offered to trade him a pen that looks like a fish.

MacDonald then bartered the fish pen for a handmade doorknob from a potter in Seattle.

MacDonald traded the doorknob for a camp stove. He traded the stove for a 100 watt generator.

He bartered all the way up to an afternoon with rock star Alice Cooper and finally a paid role in a Corbin Bensen movie.

A man in Kipling Sask. who owned a second home in a rural area away from town noticed the movie role and offered to trade if for the role in the movie.

MacDonald's secret? He always traded up.

Name of the movie? "Donna on Demand."

Urban Legend?? Who cares? We all want to trade up.

How about trading up for the life of Jesus!!!!

SLIDE: WE DON'T WANT A CHANGED LIFE.

SLIDE: WE WANT THE EXCHANGED LIFE.

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:1: *THEREFORE*: Whenever you see a *therefore* you must ask why it is there for. This *therefore* refers to the entire preceding seven chapters.

REVIEW

BLACKBOARD SLIDE: Romans 1: No excuse for atheists and agnostics to reject God

They have an external witness of the universe (intelligent design).

They have the internal witness of their consciences.

Romans 2: Good people are without excuse (seven things God evaluates on and they fail everyone).

Religious people are without excuse (they can't follow all the rules of their religion).

Romans 3: Conclusion: All sin and fall short of the glory of God. All need a savior.

BLACKBOARD SLIDE: Romans 4: Faith is the one thing God is looking for. "The just shall live by faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5: Rejoice: justified by the life and death of Christ.

BLACKBOARD SLIDE: Romans 6: Victory over the Sin Nature—we died to the sin nature on the cross with Jesus

Know—Calculate—Offer

Romans 7: Struggle with the Law—rules and regulations—bring spiritual death.
“Oh, wretched man that I am.”

Controlling and demanding Pharisee churches
Who will deliver me? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ.

Diagram both sin nature and Law on cross: Don't have to sin. Resurrected to the life of Christ.

Most significant sermons at Casas: order from tape table on the Plaza today.

Romans 8:1: *THEREFORE*: Now begins the beauties of the victorious life through Jesus Christ.

SLIDE: NO CONDEMNATION

ROMANS 8:1: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

*Very emphatic – Double negative plus negative begins sentence. “No, no way, never is there condemnation therefore for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

We are eternally secure. Stop wrestling with eternal security. God is responsible for our eternal security.
We are not. Not our works that saved us and not our works that keep us from losing salvation!

SLIDE: 7 STEPS: SHAME AND REJECTION: Symptoms of failure to enter into the fullness of Forgiveness: still struggling with condemnation
Seeking power, recognition, money, material possessions, or sex to fill the emptiness from feeling unloved.

SLIDE: Keeping the memories of past hurts alive by continually dwelling on rejection and hurt. Striving for acceptance by being a people pleaser.

SLIDE: Doubting that God loves me.
Isolating myself from others by believing that I don't need anyone.

SLIDE: Believing that I am inadequate or inferior.
Rejecting others or pushing others away before they can hurt me.

Stop the guilt feelings of poor parenting or past mistakes.

SLIDE: Michelangelo's David from rejected piece of marble: *Agony and Ecstasy* by Irving Stone
See it in Florence or Caesar's Palace

SLIDE: WHAT GOD NEVER EXPECTED

Romans 8:3a: *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature*

It is a source of untold relief to discover that God has never expected anything of us but unremitting failure.

Nothing that ever shocks you about yourself shocks Him; it grieves Him, but never shocks Him. You cannot be shocked by what you expect!

Repentance does not simply go on apologizing to God for the things you have done wrong as though you were waiting for God to say, “I know you did not mean it, and it is not what I would normally expect from you,” when it is exactly what you did mean, and exactly what God expects of you!

Why not call your own bluff.

Admit that what you have done is the inevitable consequence of what you are!

He never expected that you would live a perfect life anyway!

San Diego courtroom two men on trial for robbery. Witness being interrogated by Prosecuting attorney.

“Were you at the scene when the robbery occurred?”

“Yes.”

“And did you observe the two robbers?”

“Yes.”

“Are those two men present in the court today?”

No need for the witness to answer. The two men on trial dutifully raised their hands.

What Jesus Did For Us (Romans 8:3-4a)

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:3-4: For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

SLIDE: And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

Declarative sentence: If you’re a Christian you do live in the Spirit. You don’t have an option. The Christian life is life in the Spirit.

SLIDE: THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT VERSUS THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH

READ ROMANS 8:2: because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

What is a law – something which happens over and over again.

Law of gravity – drop handkerchief – falls in Tucson, New York, Moscow... Law of gravity always produces same results. Handkerchief naturally falls without any help from me.

Romans 7 – Law of Sin and Death occurs naturally without any help from any of us.

“How can I be set free from the law of sin and death?”

Gravity is Law of sin and death. Handkerchief is me. My hand is Law of Spirit and life.

Drop handkerchief: I naturally drop and fall—it is the most natural thing in the world to do.

Drop handkerchief and catch it with my hand: The Law of the Spirit overcomes the Law of sin and death.

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:5-8: Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

SLIDE: 6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.*

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:9: *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if (since) the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

Explain “if” and “since.”

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:10-11: *But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

Always good to examine your life.

SLIDE: If you are a Christian you are living in the Spirit. The Christian life is life in the Spirit. It is not optional.

More like Jesus than 5 years ago.

How does the Christian life become practical?

It all becomes practical through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

SLIDE: WE DON'T WANT THE CHANGED LIFE.

SLIDE: WE WANT THE EXCHANGED LIFE.

Now, let's trade up and trade in the Law of Sin and Death for the Life of the Spirit.

SLIDE: THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: GETTING TO KNOW THE ONE WHO LIVES WITHIN

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Must know get to know the one who lives with in (Holy Spirit and Spirit of Christ are the same).

BLACKBOARD: Describe Trinity

Father Is Designer; Son Is Creator And Savior; Spirit Is Facilitator.

Holy Spirit Raised Christ: Holy Spirit Raises Us To Live A New Life.

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY: War and Peace jokes; Anna Katarena—novels about the Russian revolution of 1917: got rid of the totalitarian Czar and replaced with Lenin and communism.

Arrested by the Czar and sentenced to die.

Last meal, last night's sleep, last sunrise, last prayers (Christian).

Stood up against wall; blinded folded: “Ready, aim, fire.” Flinched.

Bullets slammed into wall all around him. Not one hit him.

That was the plan. The emotional trauma of the process of dying without experiencing death has a transforming effect on people.

Talked about waking up the morning of his mock execution knowing that it would be the last day of his life.

Last meal—savored every bite.

Every breath of air—aware of how fresh and clean it was.

Every face he saw, he studied with intensity.

Marched into the courtyard—felt the warmth of the sun as he never felt it before.

Seeing the world as he had never seen it before.

More alive than ever that morning.

●The Holy Spirit is the One who encourages, comforts and enables Christians to live the Christian life.

READ JOHN 14:16-18: And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor (Paraklete) to be with you forever- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

**Allos*—not *heteros*: another comforter of the same kind.

●The presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life is what makes him or her a Christian. The Holy Spirit "Regenerates", or imparts spiritual life to men and women who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith.

Regeneration is the impartation of Spiritual life to men and women who are morally and spiritually dead because of trespasses and sins.

John 1:3-6: Born of Flesh – first birth – Image of Adam

Born of Spirit – rebirth – Image of God.

Holies of Holies turned on in Temple.

●The Holy Spirit is 100% God (Matthew 28:19 and 2 Corinthians 13:14). He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14), omniscient (John 14:26), omnipotent (Luke 1:35), and omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10).

●The Holy Spirit is a person with His own unique personality who has an intellect (1 Corinthians 2:11) and his own personal will (1 Corinthians 2:11). He can love (Romans 15:30), grieve (Ephesians 4:30) and express every human emotion.

The use of the masculine pronoun for spirit breaks all the rules of Greek grammar to show that He is person.

●The basic work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal, magnify and glorify Christ (John 15:26).

●The Holy Spirit Convicts the World of sin, righteousness and judgment to come (John 16:8-11).

●The Holy Spirit fills Christians who are walking intimately with the risen Lord Jesus Christ with all the fullness of the life of Christ. This filling is variable and must be repeated often.

READ JOHN 7:37-39: Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 39 By this he meant the Spirit.

Eph 5:18: Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. We retain the filling of the Spirit by walking in the Spirit and not in the Flesh.

●The Holy Spirit gives out spiritual gifts to Believers as He pleases for the good of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-12).

●The Holy Spirit's presence in the world prevents the coming of the Antichrist into the world. When the Holy Spirit departs at the Rapture, the Antichrist will make his appearance and initiate his preordained works of evil.

SLIDE: WE DON'T WANT THE CHANGED LIFE.

SLIDE: WE WANT THE EXCHANGED LIFE.

Write on Slide: That is why Paul speaks of "the fruit of the Spirit" as one (Galatians 5:22) and not "fruits" as separate items.
Galatians 5:22-23.

He is not a retailer dispensing grace to us in packets, measuring out some patience to the impatience, some love to the unloving, some meekness to the proud.

God has given us His Holy Spirit, and when love is needed the fruit of the Spirit is love; when joy is needed the fruit of the Spirit is joy.

SLIDE: He has given us only one gift to meet our need: His Son Jesus.

THIS IS THE EXCHANGED LIFE OF CHRIST.

SLIDE: ROMANS 8:12-13: Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation-but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

Our choice—

SLIDE: Remember Les Miserables video box cover

VIDEO SEGMENT OF Les Miserables

Meditation: Imagine exchanging your life for the life of Christ.
Imagine trading up.