Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church Bible Sharing Program 2013-2014 Romans #5: Christians Freed from the Law & Life In the Spirit CATH= Catholic for a Reason-Scripture/Family
CSB =Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
SN = Special notes, LF=Francis, Lumen Fidei
SK = Chinese Bible
JNaz=Jesus of Nazareth
CCC= Catholic Catechism
SUN=R. Sungenis, Not By Faith Alone

Α	"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith" (Rm 1:17) Introduction of Related Scriptural Passages	Rm 7:1 – 8:11
	"Memory is a dimension of our faith which we might call "deutero- nomic", not unlike the memory of Israel itself. Jesus leaves us the Eucharist as the Church's daily remembrance of, and deeper sharing in, the event of his Passover (cf. Lk 22:19). The joy of evangelizing always arises from grateful remembrance: it is a grace which we constantly need to imploreTogether with Jesus, this remembrance makes present to us "a great cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12:1)The believer is essentially "one who remembers".	Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 13
В	An Analogy from Marriage	Rm 7:1-6
	• Just as the death of a husband "discharges" his wife, those who are baptized have died to sins or "died to the law" (Rm 7:4),. The "death" through baptism discharges humanity from the slavery of law.	Rm 7:1-6, CSB
	 "Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man, she is not an adulteress". – Paul reaffirms the teaching of Jesus in Mark 10:12, that marriage establishes a lifetime relationship, "thus a married woman is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives". 	Rm 7:3, CSB
	• "While we were living in the flesh" – "Flesh" implicates not only one's physical body but connotes a unique meaning according to Paul (see Rm 8:5-8): Those who are not bound by the law should not continue to focus too much on the code of law, but "worship the Lord with whole hearts and minds".	Rm 7:5-6, CSB
С	Law Leads to Recognition of One's Sin and Weaknesses	Rm 7:7-25
	• "I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet'". – "Covet" refers to the 9 th and 10 th Commandments: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife" and "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house".	Rm 7:7, CSB
	 The law is holy and good as it guides us what not to do; however, it does not teach us how to achieve goodness. 	CCC 1963, SN1
	• "Apart from the law sin lies dead" – when there is no law, sin "lies dead" because without the law, no sin can be determined. Sin is "revived" by the law: this means on the one hand, law reveals sin and "brings death to me"; when one is condemned of sin, the penalty is death. On the other hand, our recognition of sin gives life to sin.	Rm 7:8-12, CSB

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	• The law is good and cannot bring death to us; however, sin brings death to us through the law and human weaknesses. Therefore, Paul concludes: "Did what is good bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure".	Rm 7:13, CSB
	 "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" – This is a sincere and poignant confession of human weakness. Paul's cries represent the cry of all humanity. 	Rm 7:14-25CSB
	Note: Paul's writing in first person does not only imply himself but the whole of humanity and human history.	Rm 7:9, CSB
	 "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin." – Humanity who is helpless receives support from Jesus Christ. People continue to 	Rm 7:25, CSB
	struggle between two kinds of "law"; concupiscence causes one to stumble, therefore one must continue to repent and rely on God's boundless love and compassion.	SN2
	St. Augustine has precisely summarized this discussion on law and sin.	SN3
D	Life in the Spirit	Rm 8:1-11
	 "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit* set their minds on the things of the Spirit". Similarly, Theology of the Body admonishes individuals to live a pure life. 	Rm 8:5 Gal 5:16-21 SN4
	• "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ" are used interchangeably since the Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son; "Filioque (Latin) and "from the Son".	Rm 8:9 CSB, Gal 4:6 Jn 15:26