THE BIBLE IS HOLY AND SPIRITUAL – BUT I AM NOT!

Introduction - The Bible's story begins with creation and proceeds to sin, promise, exodus, gift of the Law, wilderness wanderings, and the inheritance of the land of Canaan. This is the storyline behind the reasoning of the Roman letter.

A. The Law did not save Israel.

   Romans 7:1-6

   1. Romans 6 discussed our exodus from slavery to sin through the waters of baptism.

   2. The Law given at Mount Sinai did not make the Israelites holy.

   3. We are married to Christ and serve Him in the new way of the Spirit.

B. Sin can use even the Bible to entice us to sin and capture us as its slaves.

   Romans 7:7-14

   1. Would knowing all the New Jersey driving rules and court cases concerning it make you a good driver?

   2. The problem is not with the written code of God, but our unspiritual nature that can corrupt even the Holy Word of God.

C. Sin is a powerful force that indwells us, driving us toward destruction and death.

   Romans 7:15-25

   1. I think I am in control of my life until I try to do good, and find a contrary alien force that moves me to do the evil that I hate.

   2. We cannot learn or will ourselves out of this inner slavery. We must be rescued by God.

D. The righteous requirements of the Bible are fulfilled in Jesus and through the gift to us of the indwelling Spirit of God.

   Romans 8:1-11

   1. Our mindset and the power of the Holy Spirit enable me to please God.

   2. The ultimate fulfillment of all the promises of God are found in the life of the Spirit and the power of the resurrection.

<u>Conclusion</u> – Our natural unspiritual nature can only be overcome by the intervention of God in Christ and the work of the life-giving Spirit.

<u>Discussion Questions</u>

1. How do we sometimes misunderstand the nature of both the Bible and sin?

2. What can we do to cooperate with the work of God for us and in us?

3. Why does Romans allude to the storyline of the Old Testament of creation, sin, promise, exodus, gift of the Law, wilderness wandering, and inheritance of the land of Canaan?