1. Those who are in Christ have died with Christ and have also been married to Him. So we are also raised from the dead in Him and will now bear spiritual fruit for God.
2. Trusting Christ for their salvation, believers are released from slavery to sin that holds unbelievers captive through the Law. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can now serve God in obedience to Christ. Where we have failed to obey the written code of the Law before, the Spirit empowers us to conform to the commandment as He sanctifies us in Christ.
3. The Law cannot be sinful because the Law is a reflection of the character of God. But the Law, by itself, cannot bring about our obedience. Instead, through the Law comes our knowledge of sin. Thus, the very definition of sin is the breaking of God’s Law.
4. The Law creates opportunities for sin to produce in the unbeliever all kinds of disobedience to the demands of the Law. Though the unbeliever is still a slave of sin before they hear the Law, the power of sin increases when it comes into contact with the Law. So, spiritual death grows even more deadly through the corruption of our unbelieving, sinful hearts when we disobey the Law.
5. Yet God’s Law is holy, righteous, and good because it reflects God’s holy and righteous character.
6. It was sin that produced death in Paul’s heart through the Holy Law of God. The purpose for this was that sin might be shown to be sinful, and that sin itself might become even more sinful. Thus, it was through the work of the Law that Paul realized his need for Christ!

Application

1. Mourn the reality of sin in your life. Feel poor in spirit as you think about the truth of your own sinful heart. Hate that sin dishonors God.
2. See the reality of God’s Holiness as you learn more about His Law in His Word. Understand that, on your own, you cannot succeed in obeying His Law in the way that He requires you to.
3. Rejoice that we have died to the Law through the body of Christ. Being in Christ, we can now obey God as the Spirit has raised us from the dead so that we may bear fruit for God.