



# The Notes

## MISSING IT

### Part 1: “Scam Alert!”

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*“You shouldn’t have any trouble understanding this, friends, for you know all the ins and outs of the law—how it works and how its power touches only the living. For instance, a wife is legally tied to her husband while he lives, but if he dies, she’s free. If she lives with another man while her husband is living, she’s obviously an adulteress. But if he dies, she is quite free to marry another man in good conscience, with no one’s disapproval. So, my friends, this is something like what has taken place with you. When Christ died he took that entire rule-dominated way of life down with him and left it in the tomb, leaving you free to “marry” a resurrection life and bear “offspring” of faith for God. For as long as we lived that old way of life, doing whatever we felt we could get away with, sin was calling most of the shots as the old law code hemmed us in. And this made us all the more rebellious. In the end, all we had to show for it was miscarriages and stillbirths. But now that we’re no longer shackled to that domineering mate of sin, and out from under all those oppressive regulations and fine print, we’re free to live a new life in the freedom of God. But I can hear you say, ‘If the law code was as bad as all that, it’s no better*

*than sin itself.' That's certainly not true. The law code had a perfectly legitimate function. Without its clear guidelines for right and wrong, moral behavior would be mostly guesswork. Apart from the succinct, surgical command, 'You shall not covet,' I could have dressed covetousness up to look like a virtue and ruined my life with it. Don't you remember how it was? I do, perfectly well. The law code started out as an excellent piece of work. What happened, though, was that sin found a way to pervert the command into a temptation, making a piece of 'forbidden fruit' out of it. The law code, instead of being used to guide me, was used to seduce me. Without all the paraphernalia of the law code, sin looked pretty dull and lifeless, and I went along without paying much attention to it. But once sin got its hands on the law code and decked itself out in all that finery, I was fooled, and fell for it. The very command that was supposed to guide me into life was cleverly used to trip me up, throwing me headlong. So sin was plenty alive, and I was stone dead. But the law code itself is God's good and common sense, each command sane and holy counsel. I can already hear your next question: 'Does that mean I can't even trust what is good [that is, the law]? Is good just as dangerous as evil?' No again! Sin simply did what sin is so famous for doing: using the good as a cover to tempt me to do what would finally destroy me. By hiding within God's good commandment, sin did far more mischief than it could ever have accomplished on its own."*

**Romans 7:1-13 (MSG)**

*“For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.”*

**Romans 3:20 (NLT)**

## **SIN KEEPS SCAMMING ME WHEN I KEEP BELIEVING THAT...**

### **1. ...SIN IS SOMETHING \_\_\_\_\_ THAN IT REALLY IS.**

*“Encourage each other every day—for as long as we can still say ‘today’—so none of you let the deceitfulness of sin harden your hearts.”*

**Hebrews 3:13 (TVB)**

*“All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God’s order. Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program. No one who lives deeply in Christ makes a practice of sin. None of those who do practice sin have taken a good look at Christ. They’ve got him all backward.”*

**1 John 3:4 (MSG)**

*“You see, all have sinned, and all their futile attempts to reach God in His glory fail.”*

**Romans 3:23 (TVB)**

*“Anyone who knows the right thing to do, but does not do it, is sinning.”*

**James 4:17 (NCV)**

*“If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.”*

2. ...SIN IS \_\_\_\_\_ THAN  
IT REALLY IS.

*“I tell you the truth: everyone who commits sin surrenders his freedom to sin. He is a slave to sin’s power.”*

**John 8:34 (TVB)**

*“For if I know the law but still can’t keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don’t have what it takes. I can will it, but I can’t do it. I decide to do good, but I don’t really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. My decisions, such as they are, don’t result in actions. Something has gone wrong deep within me and gets the better of me every time. It happens so regularly that it’s predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God’s commands, but it’s pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.”*

**Romans 7:17-23 (MSG)**

3. ...SIN IS \_\_\_\_\_  
THAN IT REALLY IS.

*“The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”*

**1 Corinthians 10:13 (NLT)**

*“So put to death anything that comes from sinful desires. Get rid of sexual sins and impure acts. Don't let your feelings get out of control. Remove from your life all evil desires. Stop always wanting more and more. You might as well be worshiping statues of gods.”*

**Colossians 3:5 (NIRV)**