

# Romans 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

## Analysis

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**And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.**—Hē entolē hē eis zōēn (ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ εἰς ζωήν, "the commandment unto life") references Leviticus 18:5: "which if a man do, he shall live in them." The law promised life on condition of perfect obedience. Heurethē moi (εύρεθη μοι, "was found by me") indicates experiential discovery, not theoretical knowledge.

Eis thanaton (εἰς θάνατον, "unto death") reveals the tragic reversal: law intended for life became the instrument of death's exposure. This isn't law's failure but humanity's. The problem wasn't the prescription (law) but the patient's terminal condition (sin nature). Perfect obedience would yield life, but no fallen human achieves it (Romans 3:23). Law reveals inability, driving sinners to the grace-remedy of Christ.

## Historical Context

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Leviticus repeatedly promised life through obedience, establishing the covenant principle of blessing for faithfulness. However, Israel's history demonstrated universal inability to merit life through law-keeping. Paul shows that law's design (reward obedience) was subverted by sin's power, making law a ministry of death (2 Corinthians 3:7) that drives people to Christ.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing that law's purpose was life help you understand God's good intent even when it exposes your failure?
2. In what ways might you functionally believe you can merit life through obedience despite intellectually affirming salvation by grace?
3. How should the law's failure to produce life in you affect your gratitude for Christ's accomplishment on your behalf?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ εὑρέθη μοι ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ εἰς ζωὴν  
And found I which the commandment which to be unto life

G2532 G2147 G3427 G3588 G1785 G3588 G1519 G2222

αὕτη εἰς θάνατον·

G3778 to be unto death  
G1519 G2288

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 18:5** (Parallel theme): Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD.

**Romans 10:5** (Word): For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

**2 Corinthians 3:7** (Parallel theme): But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away:

**Galatians 3:12** (Word): And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

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