

**Romans 7:14-25**  
Understanding Your Sinful Self

*My sinful self my only shame ...*

- I. Who I Am
  - A. I Don't Understand
  - B. %100 Redeemed
  - C. And Still at War
- II. What I Know
  - A. The Law
  - B. Unravels Me
  - C. I am Undone
- III. Why I Am Joyful
  - A. Consoled
  - B. I Press On
  - C. With Confidence

*... my glory all the cross.*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Did Jesus pay for all of His people's sins?
2. Do we still have to deal with sin in our life?
3. How do we know we are still sinners even if we have been saved from four sins?
4. Where is the first place we should go when we realize we have sinned in some way or another?
5. When will we finally be done with sin?

**The Law, Me, Myself and I**

There is some question even among sound theologians about just who the "I" is that Paul is writing about in our text. Was this Paul before he was converted? The content almost seems too drastic to apply to a Christian. Is it an immature convert who is still wrestling with indwelling sin and dealing with confusion over why it is still there if he is saved? Might it be a mature believer who has come to recognize (as is often the case) that the more he grows in knowledge of himself the more he realizes the depths of his sin? Good arguments abound for the variety of views, but my take along with many other's is that this is a converted Paul expressing the anguish recognition of indwelling sin can produce when it is exposed in all its wretchedness by the Law. I have come to this conclusion based primarily on the text and context. But in addition to that I see Paul explaining something to Christians that we commonly experience even with the solid standing we have due to the righteousness of Christ. While we are fully redeemed, we are not fully purged of the presence of sin – and that should convict us always – and will convict us in especially pronounced ways in times of close self-examination or in response to our sins. Particularly disturbing deeds, destructive dialogues, wicked thoughts and corrupted motives - when brought to light by the Word and Spirit, through our consciences or even through other people - should produce in us godly sorrow. Don't be surprised if you read this passage and say to yourself "wait! That's me sometimes!" It is called the conviction of sin, and that is a good and necessary thing. Where do we go for mercy when indwelling sin in is brought to light? To our God of grace of course, where we can grieve and weep, find encouragement and help. Where do we find help to move ahead? By a more vigorous effort to keep the "Law?" No, keeping the Law more precisely can no more sanctify a saint than save a sinner! Once again we turn to the God of grace to deal with our indwelling sin, seek His forgiveness and the grace of repentance to more and more put off the old man and put on the new. This will be an essential part of our ongoing progress in Christ until that day when our salvation is complete and we are "saved to sin no more." For now we ask with Paul "Who will deliver me from this body of flesh?" Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He has and He will!