

Victory in the Struggle against Sin!

Romans 7:14 For we know that the **law is spiritual**: but **I** am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which **I** do **I** allow not: for what **I** would, that do **I** not; but what **I** hate, that do **I**. 16 If then **I** do that which **I** would not, **I** consent unto **the law that it is good**. 17 Now then it is no more **I** that do it, but sin that dwelleth in **me**. 18 For **I** know that in **me** (that is, in **my** flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with **me**; but *how* to perform that which is good **I** find not. 19 For the good that **I** would **I** do not: but the evil which **I** would not, that **I** do. 20 Now if **I** do that **I** would not, it is no more **I** that do it, but sin that dwelleth in **me**. 21 **I** find then a law, that, when **I** would do good, evil is present with **me**. 22 For **I** delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But **I** see another law in **my** members, warring against the law of **my** mind, and bringing **me** into captivity to the law of sin which is

in **my** members. 24 O wretched man that **I** am! who shall deliver **me** from the body of this death? 25 **I** thank God

through Jesus Christ our

Lord. So then with the mind **I myself** serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

- Historically godly men have argued about who Paul is referring to in this passage when he says “I”
 - Paul refers to himself differently than a lost man would
 - How can he now say that he is sold as a slave to sin after saying he was free in the preceding verses
 - Many thought he was speaking of a lost person or himself before he got saved
 - At the same time he talks like a saved man realizing that he is not good of himself and not able in himself
 - He calls the law good which a lost man would not do
 - The argument is whether he is speaking of the lost, the carnal, someone under conviction, or as I will present it, a

mature Christian hungry to live out who God made him to be!

- It seems that Paul is speaking as a born again man and mature in his faith and walk with the Lord
- Do we have two natures?
- In a sense we do but we don't. You are one and whole in Christ but sin is still here and we have to deal with it
- We must know that in position we have many and great promises and truths but we are to learn to live them out in our practice
- We need to learn to do like who we are
- We have no excuse to sin. Victory is ours but the desire to sin is still there
- Don't play the carnal Christian game like an excuse to be saved and live lost!

1. Lessons about the law

- a. The law cannot change me or make me holy **14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.**

- i. The law is good and reveals us the holiness of God. It helps us see our need of a Saviour
 - ii. The law is spiritual and deals with our inner man, the spiritual part of us not just our external actions
 - iii. The old nature knows no Law, the new nature needs no Law.
 - iv. The Law cannot transform the old nature; it can only reveal how sinful that old nature is.
 - v. Trying to live under Law will only *activate* the old nature; he will not eradicate it.
- b. The law cannot help me do good **15** For that which **I** do **I** allow not: for what **I** would, that do **I** not; but what **I** hate, that do **I**. **16** If then **I** do that which **I** would not, **I** consent unto the law that *it is* good. **17** Now then it is no more **I** that do it, but sin that dwelleth in **me**. **18** For **I** know that in **me** (that is, in **my** flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with **me**; but *how* to perform that which is good **I** find not. **19** For the good that **I** would **I** do not: but the evil which **I** would not,

that **I** do. 20 Now if **I** do that **I** would not, it is no more **I** that do it, but sin that dwelleth in **me**. 21 **I** find then a law, that, when **I** would do good, evil is present with **me**. 22 For **I** delight in the law of God after the inward man:

- i. The problem in this passage is with self, notice the personal pronouns! 27 times the word "I," 7 "me's," 4 "my's" in only 11 verses
- ii. Sin still dwells in us
 1. Sold under sin 14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but **I** am carnal, **sold under sin**.
 2. There is nothing good in me 18 For **I** know that in **me** (that is, in **my** flesh,) **dwelleth no good thing**: for to will is present with **me**; but *how* to perform that which is good **I** find not.
 3. Sin dwells in me 20 Now if **I** do that **I** would not, it is no more **I** that do it, but **sin that dwelleth in me**.

- iii. Though I am saved I will never be anything more than an unprofitable servant [Luke 17:10](#) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.
- iv. Something in me always rebels against the law
- v. The law never enables me to do good
- c. The cannot set us free [21](#) **I** find then a law, that, when **I** would do good, evil is present with **me**. [22](#) For **I** delight in the law of God after the inward man: [23](#) But **I** see another law in **my** members, warring against the law of **my** mind, and bringing **me** into captivity to the law of sin which is in **my** members. [24](#) O wretched man that **I** am! who shall deliver **me** from the body of this death? [25](#) **I** thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind **I myself** serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.
- i. No matter how many times I decide that I will not do wrong I do it again

- ii. I try and try and can't succeed
- iii. The law actually gives strength to sin

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

- d. The flesh can't John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; **the flesh profiteth nothing:** the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh.**

- e. Victory is found as I learn to yield to the Holy Spirit working in me Philippians 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you** both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

- f. Legalism makes a believer wretched because it grieves the new nature and aggravates the old nature!

- g. The legalist becomes a Pharisee whose outward actions are acceptable, but whose inward attitudes are despicable.

2. The great truths of this passage

- a. Sin dwells in us even though we delight in the law of God
- b. We are powerless against sin in ourselves
- c. I do not really want to sin
- d. The only way to have victory is to yield to Jesus and His working in my life

3. Truths that lead to victory

- a. There is victory in Christ over sin. We can reckon that to be true
- b. As we yield to the Lord Jesus we will be willing for Him to show us our sin and selfishness
- c. We will agree with God about our sin and selfishness by His grace
- d. He will help us to reckon ourselves to really be dead to sin and alive to Him
- e. We will often struggle with sin **James 4:4** **Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. **4:6** **But he giveth more grace.** Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but **giveth grace unto the humble.** **7**

Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist the devil,** and he will flee from you. **8 Draw nigh to God,** and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands, ye sinners;** and **purify your hearts, ye double minded.** **9** Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and *your joy to heaviness.* **10 Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

- f. It is not about more information but about more application

4. Take home truths from this passage

- a. God's people will have a lifetime of struggles against sin
 - i. So be prepared
 - ii. Stay awake and alert
 - iii. Determine to live out who you are
 - iv. Trust the Lord to bring holiness to pass in your life
- b. We will never have victory in and by ourselves in the Christian life
 - i. There is no quick fix

- ii. There is no list of sins to stop or good deeds to start
 - iii. No conference nor revival that will just fix things from here on out
 - iv. We decide to walk in faith, loving Jesus, listening to Him, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit
- c. Even in victory we are still unprofitable servants
- i. Because we never win the victory
 - ii. We are too prone to think too much of ourselves

Revelation 4:11 **Thou art worthy**, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for **thou hast** created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- d. We have been given tools to fight with and we should use them **Ephesians 6:10** Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord**, and in **the power of his might**. **11** Put on the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **Philippians 3:12** Not as though **I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after**, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ

Jesus. **13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and **reaching forth unto those things which are before,** **14 I press** toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. **Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so **great a cloud of witnesses,** let us **lay aside** every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run** with patience the race that is set before us, **2 Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For **consider him** that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. **4** Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

- e. The Word of God
- f. Bible study
- g. Preaching
- h. Christian fellowship

- i. Service to others
- j. Worship
- k. Accountability
- l. Mature Christians struggle against sin
- m. Mature Christians know that victory is only found in the person and work of Jesus **25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**
 - i. Never trust yourself to live the Christian life
 - ii. Never think you have it down
 - iii. Never think you are beyond sin
- n. Though we struggle with sin His grace is sufficient and should motivate us to seek holiness
 - i. His mercies should motivate us **Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

ii. The One we love is coming soon [Romans 13:12](#) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

iii. He will reward us for our loving service

[I Corinthians 9:24](#) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. [25](#) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. [26](#) I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: [27](#) But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

o. It is Jesus that saved us and is saving us even now

p. Our victory is just another proof of His grace and triumph over sin [Philippians 1:6](#) Being confident of this very thing,

that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it*** until the day of Jesus

Christ: [I Corinthians 10:13](#) There hath no temptation

taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also **make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.**