

THE STRUGGLE WITH SIN – AND LOSING THRU LEGALISM! **(Romans 7:7-25)**

III. SALVATION AND SANCTIFICATION (Rom. 6:1 - 8:17) ... The Righteousness of God Reproduced

A. POSITIONAL Sanctification. (6:1-10)

B. PRACTICAL Sanctification (6:11-23)

C. POWERLESS Sanctification (7:1-25)

1. Some DEFINITIONS You Should Know:

2. The BELIEVER'S Relationship to the LAW (7:1-6).

3. Some VARIOUS FORMS that Legalism Shows Itself in our Day:

4. Several observations about this passage (Romans 7)

- a. This passage describes the spiritual experience of Paul _____ he was saved.
- b. The spiritual defeat Paul experienced is not because he does not want to do God's will, but because he does not understand _____ it can be done.
- c. The word "I" is found _____ times in these verses, while the word "Spirit" is found _____ time.
- d. The word "sin" is a _____, that is _____, and normally has the _____ preceding it, referring to the _____.

Romans 7:7-25

A legitimate question: What shall we say then? Is the law sin? (7:7a)

A definite answer: Certainly not! (7:7b)

A theological explanation: On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. (7:7c)

A perfect example – the prohibition of the sin of coveting (7:7d -11)

- a. **The purpose of the Law:** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." (7:7c)
- b. **The provocation of the Law:** But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. (7:8a)
- c. **The practical result of the Law:** For apart from the law sin was dead. I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. (7:8b – 9)
- d. **The personal frustration with the Law:** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. (7:10)
- e. **The personal testimony regarding the Law:** For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. (7:11)

A doctrinal conclusion: Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. (7:12)

Another logical question: Has then what is good become death to me? (7:13a)

Another dogmatic answer: Certainly not! (7:13b)

Another theological explanation: But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. (7:13c)

Another personal testimony: For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. (7:14)

Some questions you need to correctly answer are...

Can the inner conflict you experience as a believer be baffling at times? ____ For what I am doing, I do not understand. (7:15a)

Can the Christian life be lived by your sheer will-power and strength? ____ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. (7:15b & c)

Can you actually end up doing the opposite of what you desire in your Christian walk? ____ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. (7:16)

What is the real source of your spiritual defeat? _____ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. (7:17)

Who is your greatest problem? ____ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells. (7:18)

Does God change your flesh at salvation? ____ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells. (7:18b)

Why do believers live in spiritual defeat? _____; _____; _____; _____. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

How many natures does the believer have? _____. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. (7:19-20)

What does the believer discover when he/she seeks to serve the Lord? I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. (7:21)

Does the believer who wants to serve the Lord experience a real, internal, spiritual conflict? _____. For I delight in the law of God according to 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. (7:22-23)

What will the believer experience when he seeks to live the Christian life by law and seeks victory and fruit through his own strength? _____ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? (7:24)

While knowing the truth of Romans 6, and desiring to serve Jesus Christ, how did Paul end up in Romans 7? _____.

When and how does Paul begin to turn the corner and find victory in his Christian life? 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. (7:25)