

Romans 7:15-25

- Victory over Sin:
 - Romans 6 – the CHOICE – do not continue in SIN
 - Romans 7 – the BATTLE – we still struggle with SIN
 - Romans 8 – the VICTORY – we overcome SIN by the power of the SPIRIT!
- Not the Law...
 - Having given us the CHOICE – slave to SIN or a slave to the LORD – **Romans 6:16**
 - Paul moved on to HOW we can WIN the BATTLE over our FLESH – and live a victorious life...
 - We tend to look to RULES [Law] – but the LAW does not give us VICTORY for THREE reasons...
 - FIRST – because we died to the LAW when we put our FAITH in Christ [example of marriage]
 - So that we could bear FRUIT – not by the LETTER but by the SPIRIT!
- Revealing Sin...
 - SECOND - Not that the Law is BAD [sin] – the Law is how we KNOW what SIN is...
 - Paul thought he was a GOOD person till he read – do NOT covet [thought] – **Exodus 20:17**
 - The LAW that was meant to bring LIFE – instead brought DEATH...
 - Sin deceived Paul – and the RULES could help – they could NOT change his HEART!
- Not Perfect...
 - THIRD – the LAW is perfect – every COMMAND is good...
 - But like a MIRROR all it can do is show us how BAD we really are [cannot change us]
 - Because we are CARNAL – in and of ourselves we have NO power to overcome our SIN nature!
- 1ST – SEEING THE WAR... vs. 15-20
 - 1st – The Battle... vs. 15
 - Confusion...
 - For what I am doing I do not understand!
 - Having shown us that the LAW cannot HELP us win the WAR against sin...
 - It ONLY has the power to reveal how SINFUL we are [sold to sin]
 - Wanting to RELATE to us and our struggles – Paul shared his own BATTLE...
 - He did NOT understand [γινώσκω] what he was [present] DOING [κατεργάζομαι]
 - This was NOT a SINGLE bad choice – or an OCCASIONAL mistake...
 - Paul could NOT understand why he KEPT making BAD decisions in his life!
 - There are THREE ways people look at the BATTLE Paul lays out...
 - FIRST – Paul is speaking about himself BEFORE Christ...
 - But this does NOT seem to be the case – as he describes himself in the PRESENT tense...
 - And describes an INWARD desire to do what is GOOD...
 - SECOND – Paul is speaking about specific SINS that he struggled to overcome...
 - This also does NOT seem to be the case – this is NOT a confession...
 - Paul does not identify any particular sin he struggled with...
 - THIRD – Paul is speaking about what happens if we try living a GODLY life in the FLESH...
 - This fits the overall context best – Paul wants us to see the LAW can show us what is RIGHT...
 - But it does NOT have the power to win the BATTLE – the VICTORY comes in - **Romans 8**
 - Right and Wrong...
 - For what I will to do that I do not practice - but what I hate that I do!
 - Paul DESIRED [θέλω] to do GOOD [present] as a HABIT [πράσσω]

- Meaning there was NO question as to WHAT he should do...
 - He KNEW what the LAW said – he KNEW the difference between right and wrong...
 - And if we asked – his CHOICE was to do what was RIGHT...
 - But [ἀλλά] instead he kept [present] DOING [ποιέω] what was WRONG...
 - Although he HATED it – he found himself in a life defined by FAILURE!
 - No one needs to tell us what GOOD and BAD is – we already KNOW...
 - We KNOW we should read our BIBLE – PRAY – go to CHURCH – FORGIVE others...
 - We KNOW we should not STEAL – LIE – be ENVIOUS - be BITTER...
 - What causes CONFUSION is why when we want to do GOOD – instead we do BAD!
 - We have the KNOWLEDGE of what to do – and we have the DESIRE to do it...
 - Yet somehow those things do not translate to our ACTIONS...
 - We are left to wonder what is wrong with us – we do NOT understand what we are doing!
- 2nd – The Problem... vs. 16-17
- Good Law... vs. 16
 - If then I do what I will not to do - I agree with the law that it is good!
 - SINCE [indicative] Paul was doing [present] what he do NOT want to do [οὐ θέλω]
 - He [indicative] AGREED [σύμφωνι] the LAW [τῷ νόμῳ] is GOOD [καλός]
 - His CONVICTION the RULES are correct – showed the Law was NOT the problem...
 - But his failure to do what was RIGHT - was the evidence of the BATTLE within him!
 - Many times I have met with people who DOUBTED their salvation...
 - Some even wondered if their CONSTANT struggle meant they LOST their salvation...
 - To be clear we CANNOT lose our SALVATION [somehow misplace it]
 - Though there is a DANGER of SIN hardening our heart – **Hebrews 3:13**
 - But people who are NOT saved – do NOT desire to live Godly...
 - It is the BATTLE that gives us the confidence the Spirit is within us – **Romans 8:16**
 - The question is how do we as CHRISTIANS find the ability to live RIGHTEOUSLY!
 - Not the solution... vs. 17
 - But now it is no longer I who do it - but sin that dwells in me!
 - Since Paul had the DESIRE to live Godly...
 - But found that he was NOT able to follow the LAW on his own...
 - He realized it was NOT his desire to live GODLY that was the problem...
 - It was looking to himself for the solution – to his SIN nature [singular]
 - Paul is NOT blaming his FLESH for his FAILURES...
 - He is stating the FAILURE of his sinful nature to help him live GODLY!
 - A person who has fallen into a pit – CANNOT pull themselves out...
 - They need someone from the OUTSIDE to help pull them up!
 - If we are looking to ourselves to try and live a GODLY life...
 - It should come as NO surprise when we continually FAIL...
 - The solution to our SINFUL nature - is NOT found by looking to our SINFUL nature...
 - We need to look someone else – to SOMEONE else – to DELIVER us!
- 3rd – The Realization... vs. 18-20
- Nothing Good... vs. 18
 - For I know that in me (that is in my flesh) nothing good dwells!
 - For [γάρ] Paul could SEE [εἶδω] that in him [his flesh]
 - There was [present] NOTHING that was GOOD [ἀγαθός]
 - GOOD [ἀγαθός] – carries the idea of being MORALLY right!

- When we are BORN again – our SPIRIT is given NEW life – **I Peter 1:23**
- But we do NOT get a NEW body until heaven – **Romans 8:23**
- Until then we are STUCK in a fallen BODY that can do NOTHING to help us live GODLY!

▪ Failure... vs. 18-19

- For to will is present with me - but how to perform what is good I do not find.
- For the good that I will to do I do not do - but the evil I will not to do that I practice!
- For [γάρ] the DESIRE to live Godly was [present] PRESENT...
- PRESENT [παράκειμαι] – to PLACE [κεῖμαι] right NEXT to [παρά] - it seemed so CLOSE...
- Yet he could NOT find a way to [present] DO [κατεργάζομαι] what was GOOD [καλός]
- Because [γάρ] – he did NOT [present] do the GOOD [ἀγαθός] he DESIRED [θέλω]
- But [ἀλλά] – the EVIL he did NOT want to do – that he [present] PRACTICED [πράσσω]!
- If you have ever locked your keys in the car you know the feeling...
- They are so CLOSE – if you could just get them – everything would WORK...
- But they are just out of reach – you can see them – but your still stuck!
- We SEE what we should do – and we WANT to do it...
- But if we are looking to ourselves [flesh] as the MEANS to get it done...
- Then the GODLY life is going to be FRUSTRATINGLY out of reach...
- The LAW put the keys right in front of us – but the FLESH cannot open the door!

▪ Sin nature... vs. 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!
- SINCE [indicative] Paul was [present] DOING [ποιέω] what he did NOT want [θέλω]
- It was clear his FAILURE was NOT the WORK [κατεργάζομαι] of his SPIRIT [inner man]
- But [ἀλλά] the WORK of the SIN nature [singular] dwelling in his FLESH...
- Again - Paul is NOT blaming his FLESH for his FAILURES...
- He is recognizing his FAILURE to live GODLY came from him looking to the wrong SOLUTION!
- I had a counseling session with a young man who was struggling with GAMBLING...
- He stole money from his parents just so he could gamble [and lose it]
- When I asked him why he did it – he told me he was ADDICTED to gambling...
- We have lots of terms to justify our SIN: angry - abused - alcoholic - poor...
- All of them are just ways of trying to avoid the real issue – us!
- I have noted TWO different reactions to the FAILURE of the FLESH...
- FIRST - there are those who become DISCOURAGED – and give up...
- They just ASSUME that the Christian walk is meant to be DISAPPOINTING...
- And they ACCEPT that SIN will have DOMINION over their lives...
- SECOND – there are those who LEARN the lesson...
- If something does NOT work – it is because it is the WRONG answer...
- Since looking to ourselves to try and live a GODLY life consistently FAILS...
- Then there must be ANOTHER way – a BETTER way to fight this BATTLE...
- The question becomes – are we ASSUMING defeat or are we ANTICIPATING the victory!

● 2ND – LOSING THE BATTLE... vs. 21-25

○ 1st – Two Laws... vs. 21-23

▪ The rule... vs. 21

- I find then a law - that evil is present with me - the one who wills to do good.
- Paul found that as a general RULE [τὸν νόμον]

- That while he [present] wanted [θέλω] to do [ποιέω] GOOD [καλός]
- That EVIL was PRESENT [παράκειμαι] within him...
- PRESENT [παράκειμαι] – 2x in NT – both of them in this chapter..
- Just as doing RIGHT was right NEXT to Paul [just out of reach] – **Romans 7:18**
- Doing WRONG was there as well – moral failure was ever present!

- When Jesus asked Peter whom men said that He was – **Matthew 16:15**
- Peter told Him – You are the Christ – Son of the Living God...
- Jesus answered that FLESH [σὰρξ] had not revealed this to him – but the Father in heaven...
- Yet a few verses later Jesus told Peter – get behind me SATAN...
- It only took a moment to go from SPIRITUAL clarity to FLESHLY reasoning!
- The RULE that we will all live with till the day we see Jesus...
- Is at ANY moment – we can either yield to the SPIRIT – or operate in the FLESH...
- We can have incredible VICTORY – see God move POWERFULLY...
- And the very next moment – turn back to the FLESH...
- Because the victory yesterday does NOT guarantee success today...
- We must continually depend upon the SPIRIT!

▪ The war... vs. 22-23

- For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.
- 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!
- Because [γὰρ] – Paul took pleasure in doing what was GOOD in his INNER man [spirit]
- Rejoicing with [συνήδομαι] with the LAW of God [τῷ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ] on what is GOOD...
- But he saw a DIFFERENT kind [ἕτερος] of LAW in his members [body]
- At WAR [ἀντιστρατεύομαι] – only here NT – to WAR [στρατεύω] AGAINST [ἀντί]
- This NEW law was fighting with the LAW of God in his MIND [νοῦς]
- Bringing him into CAPTIVITY to the law of SIN [τῷ νόμῳ τῆς ἀμαρτίας] in his BODY [members]
- We are made up of THREE parts – body – soul – and spirit – **I Thessalonians 5:23**
- We live in a BODY [members] - have conscious MIND [νοῦς] – and an eternal SPIRIT [πνεῦμα]
- The question we face every day – WHAT controls our THOUGHTS [νοῦς]!
- **Galatians 5:17** – “The FLESH lusts against the SPIRIT - and the SPIRIT against the FLESH - and these are contrary to one another so that you do not do the things that you wish.”
- We make all of our decisions with our MIND [νοῦς]
- But our MIND is a continual BATTLE ground between our BODY or SPIRIT...
- And whenever we try to fight that battle in our own strength — the FLESH wins!

○ 2nd – One Answer... vs. 24-25

▪ The question... vs. 24

- O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- Seeing the BATTLE Paul had to fight on a DAILY basis - he cried out...
- WRETCHED man – 2x in NT – meaning to be miserable - worn down by the struggle...
- Paul went through a LOT of TRIALS – because of his BODY of death [looking to himself]
- To which he asked the most important question – WHO will deliver me...
- Note he does not say WHAT – or HOW – but WHO!
- People come up with all kinds of solutions to the SIN nature...
- They will try BOOKS – that can give us INFORMATION...
- They will try PROGRAMS – that can give us STRUCTURE...
- They will try RELIGIONS – that can give us RULES...

- All of these things seem to have WISDOM – and might even say things that are RIGHT...
 - But they are missing the point – they CANNOT change our HEART!
- The Solution... vs. 25
- I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 - Paul knew there was only ONE answer to the WHO – our Lord Jesus Christ...
 - Because Jesus is the ONLY one who can do what NOTHING else can...
 - He has the POWER to be able to CHANGE our HEART!
 - **II Corinthians 10:4** – “For the weapons of our warfare are not [fleshly] but mighty in God.”
 - Every believer in Jesus understands we are at WAR...
 - We experience the BATTLE every day – the STRUGGLE to control our MIND...
 - But too often we come to FIGHT with the wrong weapons [stick to a gunfight]
 - Most Christians come to the WAR against SIN woefully unprepared...
 - They come depending on THEMSELVES – then are confused when SIN wins the BATTLE...
 - It is only when we realize we CANNOT change our hearts – we look for a better answer...
 - We understand we need to cry out to JESUS – the one who can change our HEART...
 - Jesus changes our desires - so we do NOT want to do the things that are wrong...
 - Instead we want to do those things that please the Lord!
- The Continuation... vs. 25
- So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God - but with the flesh the law of sin!
 - Therefore Paul concluded – the BATTLE would NOT end...
 - His MIND [νοῦς] would go on desiring to SERVE the LAW of God [νόμῳ θεοῦ]
 - While his FLESH [σάρξ] would continue to want to SERVE the LAW of Sin [νόμῳ ἁμαρτίας]
 - But that did NOT mean he would not have VICTORY this side of heaven...
 - Because KNOWING the battle – and WHO to go to help win the WAR...
 - There is now no CONDEMNATION to those who are in Christ Jesus – **Romans 8:1**
 - Only the Lord knows where your heart is this morning...
 - We are all in the BATTLE – the WAR is real – we face it every day...
 - But are we ASSUMING we have to live in DEFEAT – dominated by SIN...
 - Or can we SEE that LOSING the battle is meant to teach us a LESSON...
 - We were NEVER meant to look to RULES – depend on OURSELVES to win...
 - We were always meant to run to Jesus – come to the One who CHANGES hearts...
 - Are we ANTICIPATING no condemnation – the VICTORY that comes through Christ!