



Romans 7

1. Now I know- the extent of the damage

- v8 Sin Seized an opportunity - apart from the law ignorance is bliss- and condemnation- I am dead to awareness of sin but still guilty
- v9 I used to have a life unaware of my sinfulness.. now as realization hits about the truth of God's law and how far I am from keeping it.. Im toast!
- Deceived to death- the good law meant to bring me to Jesus and life, instead sin took my frustration at all the rules and incited me to rebel against God's holiness and brought death.
- The law is holy and good- However you feel about it, whatever your flesh does with it, the law is a sweet gift of God to show us not to depend on ourselves but to run to Jesus.

2. The Holy War-

- v13- even when I use the law wrongly and sin, the law accomplishes its task to prove my own weakness to me.
- v14 the law is spiritual- truth given by the Spirit, I sold myself to be a slave to sin- I am of the flesh- What the law says, and what I think are different because they are different. One is Truth given by the Spirit, one is rotten thoughts from a slave heart.
- v15 knowing this truth doesn't end the battle- Paul is still in the fight- This is why you have two desires about most things.
- v16 Grace has given me eyes to see that the fact I don't want to do it proves I know God's law is good.
- v17- How Paul reconciles the battle with his faith. I am buried with Christ. I am secure in him. The dead man of sin is he who demands to do these things. When you sin and are inundated with guilt and shame. Know that you are joined to Jesus. Run to who you are in Christ.
- v18 - I know that nothing good dwells in me, in the flesh. Thus new are not surprised and waylaid when sin rears its head. In the flesh I do not have the ability to "Carry it out" = obey God's good law.

-20- Paul is not looking for permission to keep sinning, He is crying out in repentance and hatred of his sin. That person doing the things the law has taught me to hate. That is not who I am anymore. I am in Christ.

3. Rest assured victory has come and is coming.

- v21 When I set out to do right, evil is crouching at my door.
- v22 I truly have a desire to please God. There is the internal witness and seal of the Spirit.
- v23 My members gang up against me with their own set of demands and rules- they try to make me captive. I must inform them Christ has died to set me free.
- v24 This is wretched, this internal holy war. Tell this truth to your "Now I am happy all the day" Hymns. This is not the easy, no cost gospel that I was told. Yet is the truth. While giving us peace with God. Following Christ calls us to war with ourselves.

Wretched man that I am. - The honest cry of a Christian heart. Sorrowful- and because of his sorrow over sin- assured. Affirmed by his own wretchedness that he belongs to Christ. God's mercy even in sorrow. This the cry of a Christian. This is the cry today of my own soul. I hate my sin. That is not me. I am in Christ. I despair of myself, and declare that nothing good is in me. I too have known the pain of sorrow over sin, and invite you to join in the sweetness of hot tears that prove the inner man is alive.

Who will deliver me? I cannot rescue myself- the result of Paul's law school in these chapters. God delivers me - from this body of sin- (Illustration- a murderer chained to the body of the victim- Sproul) -Who is the compassionate one who sees my struggle and intervenes. God himself.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord- Through the life and death of Jesus I am set free
Yet as long as I live the battle rages - Look up in the midst of the battle- We have a rescuer.-
Though the battle rages remember- Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.