

ROM 213 - There's not enough 'Try' in you - Rom 7:1-25

We've got a **HUGE text** to cover (twice normal)

So - **No Jokes, Tangents, Imitations** . . .

Let's Pray - right up front today

In our **last Msg** - Paul made it **clear** -

as believers, we are to be **SLAVES TO CHRIST**

Well - **to be slaves TO** Christ

We **must be RELEASED FROM** being **SLAVES** to the **LAW**

& **THAT'S** where Paul begins today - in **ROM 7:1**

Rom 7:1 - ESV

1 Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives?

Be careful - because Paul is *setting you up*

The **law is binding** on a person as long as **he lives** →

BUUUTTT - **IF** you have been **identified** with Christ (CH 6),
do you live ?? (*at least in the way you used to*)

Or - **have you died** & been **Raised to New Life** in Christ ?

Paul's going to use the **Analogy of Marriage**

to **Demonstrate** our **New Relationship** to the **LAW**

Rom 7:2-3 - ESV

2 Thus a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

3 Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

This is **a simple truth** that we obviously **still follow** today

If a **husband dies**, his **wife** is **no** longer **bound by marriage**
& she is **free to marry** another husband

So - **Paul says in V.4**

Rom 7:4 - ESV

4 Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another [bond-servant], to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

thru our identification with Jesus Christ
we **died to the law** . . .

SO THAT we **may be free** to permanently **marry JESUS CHRIST**
in order that we may **bear fruit for God**

That's all **review** . . .

& in Vs's 5-6 we see - THRU our identification with Christ

We NO LONGER Serve the Old Written CODE
We SERVE in the New Life of the SPIRIT

Rom 7:5-6 - ESV

***5 For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions,
aroused by the law [notice - sinful passions aroused by the law], were
at work in our members to bear fruit for death.***

***6 But now we are released from the law, having died to that
which held us captive, so that we serve not under the old
written code but in the new life of the Spirit.***

Instead of despair under the law - we have Joy in the Spirit
Instead of bondage under the law - we have Freedom in the Spirit
Instead of death under the law - we have Life in the Spirit!

We No Longer Serve *the old written code*
We Serve *in the New Life of the Spirit*

Now Again - BECAUSE Paul has Re-iterated;

Our FREEDOM *from the* LAW
to become BOND-SLAVES to CHRIST

He again anticipates another CRAZY Question - -
in fact - this is the THIRD Crazy question in this Context

In 6:1 the question was “*can we sin that grace may abound?*”

In 6:15 it was “*can we sin since we are not under the law?*”

Here, in 7:7 the question is: “*Is the Law actually sinful?*”

EXCUSE ME !!!!

Rom 7:7A - ESV

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! . .

Paul answers all these Crazy Questions - with the same response
CERTAINLY NOT !! - BY NO MEANS !!

We are NOT freed from the law because the law was bad

We're freed because the penalty of the law
has been paid on our behalf - "by Christ"

But the law is NOT bad - & it's certainly NOT sin !

in fact - the LAW is what made us AWARE of sin
& ultimately - The LAW made us AWARE of our need for a Savior

Rom 7:7B - ESV

7 . . . Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Here's how it works . . .

At the time of his Bar Mitzvah ("son of the commandment - or law")
when Paul was 13 . . .

Paul was expected - to begin keeping the law of Moses

& so - leading up to his Bar Mitzvah
he would've begun seriously study the scriptures

& when he came to "Thou shall not covet"
he began to realize that his life was filled with coveting

& so the law REVEALED Paul's sin - to him

Just as Rom 3:20 says "*through the law comes knowledge of sin*"

But there's more that the LAW was used to do in Paul's Life

In fact - The Law - was actually Used BY the Sin Nature to bring death

I'm going to switch to the NLT translation for Vs's 8-13

As we read V.8 - WATCH for how Sin actually USES the LAW - Against US ! (already saw in V.5)

Rom 7:8 - NLT

8 But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.

Look at how Paul begins to refer to sin as kinda a "separate" part of him

Kinda like a separate "FORCE" within him with its own will & it's own agenda

Again - Paul says in V.8 (NLT)

8 But sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power.

& then in Vs's 9-10 - Paul explains that the LAW actually gave Sin it's POWER - to bring Spiritual Death

Rom 7:9-10 - NLT

9 At one time I lived without understanding the law. But when I learned the command not to covet, for instance, the power of sin came to life,

10 and I died. So I discovered that the law's commands, which were supposed to bring life, brought spiritual death instead.

When Paul realized (by the law) that he was coveting . . .

it seemed like - it was the **Commandment against Coveting** that was **actually making** him **covet** - bringing **Spiritual Death**

There's an experiment you can try yourself to prove this truth . . .

If you have a **big window** on the front of your **house**

Put **a sign** in your yard; **ATTENTION TEENAGE BOYS - DO NOT THROW ROCKS AT THIS WINDOW**

& **see how long** it takes **before** you have to **replace your window**

Pls Lstn Carefully

Our **Sin Nature** actually causes us **to do** **that** which we are told **not to do!**

that's **the way** the **sin nature** *works*

& **THEN** - **that sin nature** actually **uses** the law to **bring spiritual death** into our **lives**

Which is exactly what Paul's saying in **ROM 7:11** → →

Rom 7:11 - NLT

11 Sin took advantage of those commands and deceived me; it used the commands to kill me.

Again - notice how Paul is referring to sin

as kind of a "separate force" within his life - *in fact* AN ENEMY!

But now - Paul Reiterates

this is NOT the Law's fault - this is Sin's fault

God's Law is Holy, Right, & Good

Rom 7:12 - NLT

12 But still, the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good.

So - if the Law is Holy, Right, & Good

how is it that it brought DEATH - - & not LIFE to me ??

V.13 explains this perfectly

also in V.13 - we begin to see where Paul is really GOING in all this

We need to begin to see - How Terrible & Evil Sin really IS

Rom 7:13 - NLT

13 But how can that be? Did the law, which is good, cause my death? Of course not! Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

**Do you see it ?? - This Enemy Force called SIN
USES what was Good (the Law) to Condemn us to Death**

Which is the GOAL - & the END RESULT - of Sin

So again - we MUST SEE how Terrible Sin really IS →

that it can even use God's Good Commands
for its Own EVIL PURPOSES !

Guys - as we grow in Christ - there comes a growing revelation

- 1) of the radical "TERRIBLENESS" of our Sin Nature - &
- 2) of the true extent - of Sin's EVIL PURPOSES

Which is what V.13 has just said

SO - WHERE IS THE PROBLEM ???

The problem - is NOT with the LAW - - The Problem is with US !

You & I - By Nature - Are Slaves to SIN

& that Slave-ship to SIN CANNOT be Managed or Balanced
IT MUST BE CONSTANTLY CRUCIFIED !!!

Rom 7:14 - NLT → →

Rom 7:14 - NLT

***14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good.
The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.***

Now - **at this point** - we should be **feeling** a bit **overwhelmed**
by the "**TERRIBLENESS**" of our **Sin Nature**

It's Important because - - the **First Step** to **Conquering SIN**

is **understanding** we are **HOPELESS** *in ourselves*
to **ever conquer Sin** *On Our Own*

JUST LIKE the 1st step to **Salvation**
is to **recognize** our **HOPELESSNESS** *without Jesus Christ*

The 1st step to **Living for Christ**

is to **recognize** our **HOPELESSNESS** - *in our own strength*
of ever **overcoming Sin** - *On Our Own*

& **THAT** is what **Paul** has been **building up to**

What follows in Rom Ch 7 - **is** Paul's autobiography

The words: **I**, **me** and **myself**; are used
47 times in this chapter

Paul's writing in the **first-person singular**,
& in the **present tense**

I believe this is the **greatest Apostle** of the N.T.
*revealing to us, that **he was made** just like **we are***

He wasn't **born** - a **super-Christian**

He was born with the same sin nature you & I have
& he fought the same battle you & I are fighting

What we're about to read
is Paul describing his personal battle against his own sin-nature

& HERE - the Apostle Paul comes to the same Conclusion
that each of us MUST COME TO

that there is - NOT ENUF TRY IN HIM
to live the Christian Life on his own

There's NOT ENUF TRY IN HIM
to overcome sin with just MORE of His Own EFFORT

There's NOT ENUF TRY IN HIM
to Live out the truth of who he is "IN CHRIST"

In & of himself - There's just NOT ENUF TRY IN HIM !

Paul's describing himself as a Christian
trying to live for God in his own strength

& that proves that he really is just like us

because every Christian in this room
has - at some level - done this exact same thing

It's in our Nature - to TRY to do it ourselves

& ROM CH 7 is written - to CRUSH that false confidence
in our OWN ABILITY to Live for God

To finish the Ch - I'm going to **switch back** - to the **ESV**

Paul starts his "**Crisis of Hopelessness**" in **V.15**

Rom 7:15 - ESV

*15 I do not understand my own actions. For **I do not do** what I want, but **I do** the very thing I hate.*

How many of us have made this **exact statement** to God ?

*Lord, I don't understand
I know what I should do, but I keep NOT doing it
instead, I'm doing the very thing I HATE*

THAT is the cry of **EVERY** believer
who's trying to **Live for God** - in their **own strength**

& THAT was exactly **Paul's** struggle
before he found - **The Secret Power** - of **ROM CH 8**

& maybe you've been **trying** so hard (*in your own strength*)
to **Live for God** - - but meeting only **frustration**, & **failure**,

Well - **take hope** . . .

because **NEXT WEEK** we'll begin to look

at the **Supernatural Power** that's been **given to us**
to live a **Victorious Christian life**

But . . . that's for next week

Today - Paul **MUST** Recognize his **ENEMY WITHIN**
& it is **NOT** the **LAW** - it **is SIN**

Rom 7:16-17 - ESV

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

WHAT POWER is causing Paul to **NOT DO** what is **Right**
& instead **TO DO** what is **wrong** ?

It's the **Power of SIN** - That's **STILL Dwelling** within him

It's been **Conquered** - It's Been **Beaten** - But it's **Still IN THERE**
still **looking** to bring **Destruction** & **Death**

Paul's saying - it's **not** the **New Man**, the **New Creation**
that's doing these things

But it's the **OLD MAN** - The **OLD Creation**

Paul - - - is in a **Battle to the Death** -
it's "the **New Nature** vs. the **Old Nature**"

& THAT is the **same battle** - that **you & I** are in today
& the **first step to Victory** - is to **Recognize** the "**ENEMY WITHIN**"

Rom 7:18 - ESV → →

Rom 7:18 - ESV

18 For I know that no-thing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

NO - THING good dwells in our original nature that is, in our Flesh

Have you found this out yet?

Jn 3:6 says

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

It is better for you to be fully, completely surrendered to Christ Walking in the Spirit - & doing nothing

Than to be doing every possible thing in the flesh trying to please, or earn something - from God

Because God says :

“no-thing good dwells in your flesh”

Then - in the 2nd half of V.18

is the FIRST STEP to actually being able to Live FOR Christ

Rom 7:18B - ESV

18 . . . For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

I want to live for Christ

but I don't have the ability to carry it out!

I don't have the strength – I don't have the power

There's just NOT ENUF TRY IN ME

This is the EXACT PLACE that we MUST get to

before the power of Ch 8 will really sink in

18 . . . For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

In vs's 19-20 Paul reiterates the HOPELESSNESS

of trying to serve God in his own strength

& AGAIN - He NAMES - The Enemy Within

Rom 7:19-20 - ESV

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

The Old Sin Nature is still dwelling in me

even tho it's been Conquered - Overcome by Jesus Christ

it's STILL CROUCHING like a Lion

always poised - close at hand - ready to attack at any moment

especially if I'm trying to live for God in my own strength

Which is what Rom 7:21 says → →

Rom 7:21 - ESV

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

Have you found that's **true** in your **own life**

When you **WANT** to do what is right

SIN is **Crouching** close by - **like a LION**

just waiting for the right moment - **TO POUNCE !**

Paul understands exactly *what's happening* to us
& *he addresses* it in *these 3 verses*

Rom 7:21(again) thru V.23 - ESV

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,

23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

We have within us - **TWO WARRING** natures

Our OLD nature - which has been **Conquered** & **Defeated**
but we **still drag it around** with us

Our NEW nature - which **delights** in the **law of God**
which is our **True Inner Being** - Our **True NEW NATURE**

But in **this Life**

we are subject to the **TWO NATURES** *simultaneously*

& there is a **WAR** going on

between the **OLD NATURE** & the **NEW NATURE**

This is **“The War Within”** - The battle between the **TWO NATURES**

& we're **going to see** in Ch 8 that **THERE IS** a **clear VICTORY**

a **Super-Natural VICTORY**

that comes **IN - BY - & THRU - the Holy Spirit**

But still, we must *prepare* for this **life-long battle**

Although the *closer* we **walk with Jesus**

the *farther* away we get from the **dominance of sin** . . .

Still - the struggle **will exist** *day-by-day*

. . . **It did** for Paul . . . & **it does** for us

So - - Paul's **BRUTAL REALIZATION**

that there's **Not Enuf TRY in him** to Live for God

brings on the *CRY* of v.24

& **THIS is the CRY** - that **each** one of us **MUST get to**

Rom 7:24 - ESV → →

Rom 7:24 - ESV

24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

NOT - **HOW** do I deliver myself ?

BUT - **WHO** will deliver me ?

This Must be the **cry** of **every Christian**

who ever **desires** to truly **Walk with God** [REPEAT **V.24**]

The word **wretched** means "**miserable condition**"

it carries **the picture** of **exhaustion after a struggle**

Paul has come to **the end of himself**

he has **nothing left** to **fight this battle**

& **when WE come** to that **same place**

then **God knows** we are **READY**

to **Receive the POWER** to **Live the Victorious Life in Him**

When we become **wretched, exhausted, miserable** in our **own efforts**

THEN we're **ready** for **the power** that's coming in **Ch 8**

& in **v.25** Paul introduces **the SOURCE** of that power

Rom 7:25A - ESV

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! . . .

Rom 7:25A - NLT

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. . .

Paul came to the **end of himself**

& he **knew** exactly **to WHOM** he must look - *to be rescued*

25 Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. . .

Then he **closes CH 7** with a summary of **the battle**
that rages in **every** Christian life

Rom 7:25B - ESV

***25 . . . So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but
with my flesh I serve the law of sin.***

There **IS a Battle** - in **EVERY** Christian's Life
Between the **Law of GOD** - & the **Law of SIN**

that Battle - can **ONLY** be **WON**
BY & IN Jesus Christ our Lord

& **Next Week**

we'll begin to see **the Power** - to **WALK in that VICTORY**

But right now . . .

if you're ready to *give up* trying to **live for God**
in *your own strength*

If you would cry out with Paul;

***"Oh, wretched man that I am
"Who will deliver me from this body of death"***

Then I'd like to give you a **chance**
to **make that cry** to God right now

Let's Pray