

## **SALT Church**

**Romans 7:14-25**

***“Thanks be to God”***

**November 23, 2025**

**“The Greatest Book Ever Written”**

**David and Cindy**

**Paul brought three things to our attention last week:**

- ***1<sup>st</sup> The Law is not the problem, sin is the problem.***
- ***2<sup>nd</sup> Although Christians are forgiven, we will continue to struggle with sin until we take our last breath.***
- ***3<sup>rd</sup> The Law cannot save you, it condemns the sinner,***
  - ***but it also plays a major role in the sanctification of the Christian. (The process of becoming more like Jesus)***

**I brought to your attention:**

- ***There is a great danger in witnessing to people without getting them lost.***
  - ***Meaning, the lost must feel the full weight of their sin if they are going to feel the full weight of God’s wonderful grace and mercy.***

**So, we pick up where we left off:**

**Romans 7:14-25**

***<sup>14</sup> So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good.***

- ***Amen Paul!***

- ***It is the Law*** that drives the sinner to his knees as he confesses and repents.
- ***It is the Law*** that points out our need for Jesus.
- ***It is the Law*** that points to God's high standard so that the Child of God can be sanctified.
- The idea that the Law is bad because all it can do is condemn is just stupid.

***So, what is the problem? (Paul continues)***

***The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.***

- This is a very important sentence and here is why:
  - Paul says, "for I am all too human"
    - Meaning he **currently** is all too human.
    - This is not his past that he is speaking about, this is the here and now.
      - I bring this to your attention because some say that he is speaking about a time prior to becoming a Christian.
        - What's his point?
          - **Christians struggle with sin.**

***<sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. (AMEN) Instead, I do what I hate. <sup>16</sup> But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.***

- More proof that Paul is talking about his life now.
- Sinners don't hate their sin, only Christians hate their sin.
- So, Paul points out that the difference (from then to now) is that he is now convicted of his sin.
  - That is what conviction is, it is agreeing with God's word that sin is sin.

***17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.***

- ***Oh, my goodness Paul are you saying that the Devil made you do it?***
  - What does he mean when he says that sin is living within him?
    - Let's continue.

***18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.***

- In the Greek it says "**the sinful flesh**"
  - That's the part that we battle.
    - It is the part of us that continues to struggle with sin.
- ***Our souls***, that part of us that lives forever have been redeemed.
  - ***Our spirit*** which was born dead until the day **we became born again**, new creations in Christ has been redeemed from sin.
    - ***But our flesh*** which is in a constant state of dying is still in the battle.
      - One day we will be set free from this struggle in the flesh as we will leave these fleshly bodies behind.

- Until then, the struggle is real, and our walk is not always ideal.

**(Side Note)**

- I do not want to convey that Christians **only live in defeat**; this could not be further from the truth!
  - We do experience victory, sanctification, and the abundant life Jesus promised.

**Quote from John Piper about this very text:**

***“No Christian wants to live this way – in defeat.***

***No Christian settles to live this way.***

***But if we do live this way for a time, we shouldn't lie about it.***

***No hypocrisy.***

***No posing.***

***No boasted perfectionism.***

***No churchy, pasted smiles or chipper superficiality.***

***God save us from blindness to our own failures and the consequent quickness to judge others.***

***God help us to feel worse about our own shortfalls than the failure of others.***

***God give us the honesty and candor and humility of the apostle Paul in this text!”***

**AMEN!**

***Paul continues:***

***18 I want to do what is right, but I can't.***

- It is important that we understand what Paul is saying here:
  - He is not saying that we cannot have victory over sin.
  - He is saying that while we are in the flesh we will have failures.

***19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.***

- What a powerful sentence.
  - This is the mindset of someone who is at war with his sin.
    - This is the Christian life.
      - As long as we are in the flesh we will war against sin.

***20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.***

- This is the battle that is the flesh.
- It is very real, and we have no hope fighting it on our own.

***Paul continues:***

***21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.***

- This can be received two different ways:
  - This could be received, “every time I try to do something right, I can't resist the flesh and I inevitably to the wrong thing.”
  - Or it could be received, “I don't know what happened Lord, I wanted nothing but your goodness and yet it turned out horribly wrong.”
    - The 1<sup>st</sup> is a complete failure to go to war with our sin.
    - The 2<sup>nd</sup> is a complete failure of knowing God's will or Word. (***see the difference?***)

- My point is this:
  - Both have the same consequence.
  - The key to having victory over sin is the drawing close to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
  - Meaning we must make the reading of God's Word a priority (Listening to God voice)
    - Prayer must be a priority and a way of life. (talk to Him)
      - Walking by faith, not in fear must be a way of life.
        - This is what spiritual warfare looks like.

### ***Back to Romans***

***<sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.***

- Did you hear the language used by Paul?
  - In the Greek it is "warring" meaning that it is ongoing and in progress.
    - Yes, there are victories
    - Yes, there are defeats
- ***This is the process of sanctification.***

***Did you catch that the law was in his heart, but the war was in his mind?***

- The battleground is somewhere between the heart and the mind.

- This is what Jesus was talking about when He said:

### **Matthew 5:27-30**

*<sup>27</sup> “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.*

- **What is Jesus’ message to us class?**
  - **We must go to war with our sin.**

### **Paul continues:**

*<sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?*

- It sounds hopeless doesn’t it
  - It’s not!
- This does not mean we are not Christian.
- The test is, do we love the law?
- Do we hate our failure?
- Do we cry out in dismay over our sinful condition?
- Do we look to Christ and his righteousness?

- Do we **fly to the cross** when we sin?
- Do we confess, repent, and renounce Satan setting our faces to go forward with Jesus **carrying our own cross as we follow**?

**Side Note:**

- The focus of our heart and our mind rules everything in our lives.
- The Apostle Paul struggled to stay focused just like us.
  - Think about that statement.
    - Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament.
      - ***The struggle is real.***
- **Paul was:**
  - A converted man who was truly saved,
  - justified,
  - born again,
  - indwelt by the Holy Spirit,
  - but who also lived with remaining corruption
  - and indwelling sin
  - and the power of the flesh.
    - So it is with every Christian until we take our last breaths here on earth.

**We close chapter 7 with Paul answering his own question:**

***<sup>25</sup> Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So, you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.***

**This is not how **Romans ends**; this is **the transition** from chapter 7 to chapter 8.**



**More on this next week!**

**I want to close this week in hope and confidence that Christ can and will renew us.**

***Romans 8:1-2***

***8 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.***

- In Christ our old selves have died –
- whatever their distortion and corruption –
- and we are decisively and irrevocably new.
- In Christ Jesus the homosexual, fornicator, adulterer, covetous, thief, alcoholic, are *not* who we truly are.
  - We are affirmed by faith in Christ.
  - We trust him as our all-satisfying treasure and look to him for the help to become (as much as possible in this life) who we truly are in Christ.

***So, I close with these powerful scriptures of affirmation:***

***Romans 6:14***

***<sup>14</sup> Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.***

**Romans 6:18**

***18 Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.***

**Romans 6:6**

***6 We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.***

**Colossians 3:9**

***...for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.***

**Colossians 3:10**

***10 Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.***

**Ephesians 4:24**

***24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.***

**Galatians 3:27**

***27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.***

**Galatians 5:24**

***<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.***

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

***<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.***

***Close in prayer***