

# ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

May 26, 2024

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SERMON: I Am Imperfect

SCRIPTURE: Romans 7:14-25

**SUMMARY:** There is value in the law and conflict with the law. In chapter seven we have the full circle revelation of the law in Paul's mind, heart and life! His realization of sin and his challenge with sin; both are the result of the law. Paul writes in verses 7-13 using verbs in the past tense and in verses 14-25 with present tense verbs. He is sharing that his understanding with the law has already happened and that his conflict with the law continues. The law aids in Paul's salvation and then in the process of his sanctification. Neither the law nor sin disappear totally from a believer's life after salvation. This conflict in the flesh causes us to depend ever more deeply on the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Thus we have the continuation of truth revealed about the law, sin and the Spirit from chapter six, through chapter 7 and into chapter 8. The revelation of sin in the law and the conflict with sin in our lives because of the law. Salvation is not complete until we are no longer in the flesh! As long as we are in the flesh we must see ourselves as imperfect and the law perfect. The law cannot sanctify, but God can and will! Chapter 8 focuses on living in the Spirit and as far away from sin as is possible while still in the flesh!

(Anders gen ed., Boa & Kruidenier, *Holman New Testament Commentary - Romans*, 2000, p. 223)

### I. THE LAW IS PERFECT (V. 14A).

ROMANS 7:14A

So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good.

## II. I AM AND WILL ALWAYS BE IMPERFECT, UNTIL THAT DAY (VS. 14B-24).

### ROMANS 7:14B-24A

14b The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. 15 I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. 16 But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 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. 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.

21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God's law with all my heart. 23 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. 24 Oh, what a miserable person I am!

The Age to Come has dawned, in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus; but the present age has not passed. The two exist uneasily side by side, and Christians still look earnestly for the redemption of the body (8:23), knowing that they have been saved in hope (8:24). (*Barrett*, pp. 120-121, 142-143)

Roman's 7:14-25, together with Romans 8, pictures the believer who has been positionally delivered from the law but who, experientially, lives in the tension of the "now but not yet." (*Anders, Holman New Testament Commentary*, 2000, pp. 229-230)

## III. THE CASE FOR CHRIST! (VS. 24-25)

### ROMANS 7:24B-25

Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 25 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.

So what is the answer for this conundrum? How can we live free of the power of sin in our lives? How can we deal with the conflict with the law?

The answer is Jesus. Always has been and always will be.

Keeping our eyes focused on Jesus.

- A. Surrender to Him
- B. Follow Him
- C. Become Like Him
- D. Serve Him
- E. Serve Others on His Name

#### IV. THANK GOD!!! (25)

ROMANS 7:25

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

### LIFE APPLICATION SERMON GUIDE

1. Paul writes in Chapter 7 of Romans about the tensions between the law and sin. Is the law good? Perfect? What does the law reveal? Can the law save? How does the law condemn?
2. A quote from The Holman New Testament Commentary, “The law enters the room, sin springs to life and we die” (verse 9). Can sin be known apart from the law?
3. If the law is perfect and I am imperfect, how do I live as a Christian in 2024? (See 7:24-25; 8:1-2)
4. What can I do to live in obedience every day? What steps can I take to limit the impact sin has on my life? (See 1 Peter 5:6-11 and Luke 9:23-26)
5. If Jesus is the answer, what is the question? How does one make Jesus the Lord of daily living?
6. PRAY Ask the Lord to expand your understanding of life in the tension of sin and the Spirit. Thank Him for his amazing grace and Holy Spirit!