

WHAT IS WRONG WITH MY CHRISTIAN LIFE? Pt. 2 (Romans 7:16-20)

- Some verses to consider:

- A. The BELIEVER'S Relationship to the LAW. (7:1-6)
- B. The LAW'S Relationship to the SIN NATURE. (7:7-12)
- C. The Believer's Confusion of the NEW NATURE'S CONFLICT with the SIN NATURE and SPIRITUAL DEFEAT. (7:15-25)

- Some preliminary observations:

- 1) This passage addresses Paul's {as a believer in Christ} _____ to do God's will {due to having a new nature} but his repeated _____ and _____ due to having a sin nature and his reliance on _____ to try to live the Christian life under _____. What is missing from this passage is any mention of the _____ (until Rom. 8).
- 2) This passage {7:15-25} is loaded with emphatic _____ and _____ tense verbs. Why is this important to observe?
- 3) This passage is connected with Paul's conclusion of 7:14, "For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am _____, sold under sin." What does this mean?

- Some questions you need to correctly come to grips with as a believer in Christ are...

1. Can the inner conflict & spiritual defeat you experience as a believer be baffling & very confusing at times? _____. "*For what I am doing* {by way of sin or human good}, *I do* _____. (7:15a) Does this describe you?
2. Can the Christian life be lived by your sheer will-power and inner desire? ____ "*For what* {the will of God} _____ *to do* {desire to do due to a new nature}, *that I do* _____ *practice*. {7:15b}
3. Can you actually end up doing the very opposite of what you desire and even hate? _____ "*but what I* _____, *that* _____. (7:15c)
4. While God wants you to succeed in your Christian life, how is God using your failures? *If* {1st}, *then, I do* {by way of sin or human good} *what* _____ {desire} _____ *to do, I agree with the law that it is good*. (7:16) What does this indicate to the failing but humble & teachable believer?
5. What is God seeking to teach you to be your real source of your spiritual defeat? "*But now, it is no longer I* {as a new creation in Christ, 6:3-7; Gal. 2:20} *who do it, but* {it is 'the'} _____ {nature} *that* _____. (7:17) What and where is your greatest problem? {6:11-13}

Is Paul seeking to indulge his flesh during this defeat or shirk responsibility for his decisions and failures?

6. **Does God change your “flesh” at salvation / justification?** _____ *“For I know that _____ (that is, in _____) ...” (7:18a)* Why does Paul qualify “in me” with “in my flesh”?
 7. **What does God want you to learn about yourself that is vital to living the Christian life?** *“For I _____ that in me (that is, in my flesh) _____ dwells”. (7:18b)* Are you learning to “know” this reality? What should this drive us away from by way of dependence or deception?
 8. **What must God teach you about your new nature vs the sin nature that still dwells in you?** *“for _____ {desire} is _____ with me {due to a new nature}, but _____ to _____ what is good I do not find.” (7:18c)* How has Paul progressed in his understanding of the spiritual struggle & defeat he is experiencing? But what is he still missing?
 9. **Why do believers live in spiritual defeat?**
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____.
- When believers do not understand Romans 7, what wrong conclusions or beliefs do they embrace about the Christian life?
 - 1) That Romans 7 _____ refer to a believer in Christ leading to a lack of _____ of eternal salvation based upon their walk and works instead of faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work (1 John 5:11-13)
 - 2) They conclude that they will _____ their salvation when the Bible clearly teaches the eternal security of every believer – whether spiritual or carnal. (John 10:28-30; Romans 5:9-10; 8:38-39)
 - 3) They think this is the “_____ Christian life” and that they just need to “try harder” and seek to become “more committed” to Christ, failing to distinguish between Romans 7 & 8.
 - 4) They turn from legalism to _____ {licentious} false teaching and seek to remove their spiritual responsibility from the Christian life to eliminate a sense of failure or guilt.
 - When believers in Christ understand Romans 7, it clarifies ...
 - 1) That the sin nature has not been _____ after their salvation / justification and remains their #1 spiritual foe in their practical sanctification.
 - 2) That the victorious Christian life _____ be experienced by law living, determination, or self-effort.
 - 3) That when their new nature and sin nature clash, the _____ wins apart from the cross {Romans 6} and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit {Romans 8}.
 - 4) That their frustration and failures in seeking to living the Christian life in not _____ to them and that there is _____ of spiritual victory by God’s grace still available.

- How does all of this apply to you?