

“O WRETCHED MAN THAT I AM!”
(Romans 7:21-25)

- A. **The BELIEVER’S Relationship to the LAW. (7:1-6)** Every believer has _____ to the law by becoming united to Jesus Christ {to bear fruit to God} and has been _____ from the Law to now serve the Lord in the newness of the Holy Spirit and not in the oldness of the Law.
- B. **The LAW’S Relationship to the SIN NATURE. (7:7-12)** - The Law, which is holy, just, and good, does not really _____ sin but _____ the sin nature _____ to perform it, though there is nothing wrong with the Law which came from God but there is something inherently wrong with us, even after our justification before God by faith alone in Christ alone.
- C. **The Believer’s Confusion of the NEW NATURE’S CONFLICT with the SIN NATURE and SPIRITUAL DEFEAT. (7:15-20)** When believers in Christ understand Romans 7:15-20, 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.
- D. **The Biblical ADMISSION and ANSWER to the INTERNAL SPIRITUAL BATTLE Believer’s Experience. (7:21-25)**
- 1) Though Paul uses _____ tense verbs to show that this occurred AFTER he had trusted in Jesus Christ and was justified by faith alone, this was a _____ period or experience as he declares the solution to dilemma in Romans 8.
 - 2) Romans 7:7-25 explains the _____ that brought him to the conclusions of Romans 7:1-6 and Romans 8:1ff.
 - 3) A discovery when the believer seeks to serve the Lord: “ I _____ {discover experientially} then {based upon my prior discoveries and failures} _____ {a fixed principle or power like the law of nature or gravity}, that _____ {kakos - inherent evil – whether it be towards rebellion or human good} is {remains} present with me {all the time due to still having a sin nature}, the one who _____ {desires due to having a new nature} to do _____ {kalos – what is good and right}.” (7:21)

There are 8 “laws” set forth in Romans:

- 1) The law of Moses (2:12-13; 3:19)
- 2) The law of conscience (2:14-15)
- 3) The law principle (7:1-6)
- 4) The law of faith (3:27)
- 5) The law of God (7:22, 25)
- 6) The law of sin (7:23,25; 8:2)
- 7) The law of my mind (7:23)

- 8) The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (8:2)
- 4) **A further explanation: “For I delight** {joyfully delight or agree} **in the law of God** {God’s authority, standard, will, or law of righteousness} **according to the** _____. **{7:22}** What is the inward or inner man?
- It is NOT the _____, though the inner man is impacted by the NN.
 - It is the believer’s _____ {soul / spirit} after regeneration which can be _____ daily with the Word of God with an eternal perspective in contrast to the “outer man” which is perishing {2 Cor. 4:16}. In addition, the inner man needs to be _____ with might through the _____ to do God’s will. (Eph. 3:16)
- 5) **Another observation when the believer in Christ desires to serve the Lord: “But I see** {observe or perceive} **another** {heteros – of a different kind} **law** {fixed principle or power} **in my** {physical, bodily} **members** {what is it doing?} , _____ {used of a military conflict} **the law of my mind, and** {what does it result in?} **bringing me into** _____ {taking me prisoner} **to the law of** {the} _____ {nature} **which is in my** {physical, bodily} **members. (7:23)** What will the believer experience when he seeks to live the Christian life by law and seeks victory and fruit through his own strength? (7:24)
- 6) **The admission of despair by a failing believer: “O** _____ {wretched, miserable, deeply afflicted; distressed} **man that I** _____! _____ **will** _____ **me from this body of death? (7:24)** This is the despair & temporal death of the carnal man seeking to live the Christian life by law & self-effort, strapped with the sin nature, instead of living by grace through faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- While knowing the truth of Romans 6, and desiring to serve Jesus Christ, how did Paul end up in Romans 7? He defaulted into _____ --- instead of dependence upon the Lord! In doing so, he focused on _____ instead of Christ as His life and began living by _____ instead of by grace through faith in Christ.
- 7) **The grateful answer when the believer focuses on the Deliverer: “I** _____ {the Father; the planner of deliverance} **through** {by means of} _____ _____! {Who is the provider of deliverance, with Romans 8 then teaching us the Holy Spirit is the power of deliverance.}! **{7:25a}**
- 8) **The summary of the spiritual conflict: “So then, with the** _____ **I myself** {emphatic; } **serve the law of God** {due to having a new nature and inner man}, **but** {in contrast}, **with the flesh** {I myself serve} **the** _____. **(7:25b)**

The Christian life is lived, God’s way, by _____ dependence upon God’s provision & power but _____ production on your part!

God the Holy Spirit is the power-source of the Christian life – not you! We observe in Romans 7 – “Spirit” (1x – 7:6); in Romans 8 – “Spirit” (21x)

How does all of this apply to you?

- As a believer?
- As an unbeliever?

