

***“Never Forget”***  
***Romans 7:13-20***

**Introduction:**

1. Sometimes - In The History Of The World:
  - There Are Events That Take Place:
    - **Tragic** Events:
      - That Take The World By Storm - And:
        - That Take The World By Surprise!
  - Tragedies Like:
    - The Terror Attacks:
      - On The United States:
        - On 9/11/2001!
  - And Tragedies Like:
    - The Surprise Attack:
      - On Pearl Harbor:
        - On December 7, 1941:
          - Which Was Described At That Time As:
            - “A Date That Will Live In Infamy!”
  - And Even The Greatest Tragedy:
    - In The Modern Era:
      - The Great Holocaust:
        - That Took Over 6 Million Jewish Lives:
          - From This Earth!
2. When These Tragedies Happen:
  - Those Who Live Through Them:
    - Swear That They Will:
      - “Never Forget!”
        - And So - They Try To Memorialize And Enshrine Those Events:
          - For Themselves And For Those Who Will Come Behind Them!
  - So That They Will:
    - “Never Forget!”
      - But - Do They? Do We?
        - “Never Forget?”
          - Unfortunately, All Too Often:
            - We **Do** Forget!
  - As Time Marches On:
    - And Lives Carry On:
      - Those Events & Tragedies:
        - Become More & More Distant:
          - Not Only In Time:
            - But Also In Memory!
3. But - How Much Would This World Benefit:
  - And - How Much Would **We** Benefit:
    - If That Motto Held True!
      - If We Did, In Fact, “Never Forget!”
        - Especially Since - The War:
          - That Was Started On 9/11 Almost 20 Years Ago:
            - Has Never Ended!
  - Well - The Same Thing:
    - Is True - When It Come To:
      - Our Spiritual Lives
    - There Are Some Things:
      - That We - Who Are Christians:
        - Should And Must Never Forget:
          - About Our Walk With God!
4. And - As We Return To:
  - Romans 7 This Morning:

- We Need To Remember That:
    - The War That Was Started:
      - In The Garden Of Eden:
        - For The Souls Of Mankind:
          - Has Never Ended Either!
  - And So - The Battle With Sin:
    - Even In The Lives Of Believers In Christ:
      - Continues!
        - And The Apostle Paul Reminds Us Of This Truth:
          - Throughout This Chapter!
5. Because - Even Though:
- As A Christian, You May Be:
    - Dead To Sin - As He Already Explained:
      - Even Using Several Illustrations In Chapter 6:
        - Yet - Sin Is Not Entirely:
          - Dead To You, Nor Is It Entirely:
            - Dead In You!
  - And So - Paul:
    - Gives His Own Personal Experience:
      - Of How Sin - And The Ultimate Source Of Sin:
        - Tries To Use:
          - Even The Good Things That God Has Done & The Good Things God Has Given:
            - Like His Own Law:
              - To Deceive Us And To Defile Us, To The Point Of Despair!
  - Sin Even Tries To Get Us To Wonder:
    - Is God And His Law:
      - Really All That Good?
        - After All:
          - Doesn't His Law Serve To:
            - Actually Highlight My Disobedience And Bring About My Despair!
6. Well - In The Verses We Come To This Morning:
- Romans 7:13-20 - Not Only Does The Apostle Paul:
    - Answer These Questions - But:
      - He Also Gives Us Three Things That We Must:
        - "Never Forget" - When It Comes To:
          - The Ongoing Battle With Sin:
            - In Your Life As A Believer!
  - Let's Read Those Verses Together - From 7:12:
    - "Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. / Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. / For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. / For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. / If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good. / Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. / For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. / For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. / Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me!"
7. So - Even Though Sin:
- Tries To Take - What God Meant For Good:
    - His Own Law - And Use It:
      - For Its Own Evil Purposes:
        - To Keep You From The Light And Truth:
          - Of The Gospel!
    - Yet - God Turns The Tables:
      - On Sin And On Satan:
        - And Uses His Law:
          - To Point You To Your Desperate Need Of Jesus Christ!

- And So - God Reveals:
  - The True Nature Of Sin!
    - And That Is - The First Thing:
      - That You Must “Never Forget” As A Christian!

\* Never Forget:

**1. *The True Nature Of Wickedness!***

- Which Is What We Find In:
  - 7:13 - “Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful!”
    - In Context - “That Which Is Good” Is:
      - The Law Of God!
    - And Sin Tries To Convince Us:
      - That It Is God’s Law:
        - That Is At Fault:
          - And Not Our Sin!
      - That God’s Law:
        - Is The Source:
          - Of Our Sin - And:
      - That God’s Law:
        - Is The Source:
          - Of Our Death!
    - But - Paul’s Answer To Both Questions:
      - 7:7 - “Is The Law Sin?” - And:
        - 7:13 - “Is The Law Death?”
          - Is - “God Forbid!”
            - We Must Not Ever Think This Way About God And His Law!
  - Because - The Cause Of Both:
    - Is Sin & Only Sin!
      - Because - When It Comes To Your Soul:
- The Intent:
  - Of Sin Is & Always Has Been:
    - To Slay You!
  - It Isn’t God’s Good Law:
    - That Defiles You & Deceives You:
      - And Discourages You!
        - No - It Is The Sin Within You!
          - Your Own Sin!
  - This Is The Point That Paul Brought Out:
    - Back In 7:11 - “For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew [me]!”
      - And We Must Never Forget:
        - This Intent Of Sin!
      - Even As We Are Told In:
        - James 1:15 - “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death!”
  - But - We Also See:
- The Iniquity:
  - Of Sin - That Is:
    - There Is Absolutely Nothing Good:
      - In It Or About It!
        - It Can Even Take What *Is* Good:
          - And Try To Use It For Its Own Wicked Purposes!
  - That’s Why Paul Adds:
    - 7:13b - “But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good!”
      - Again - What God Meant For Good:
        - Sin Uses For Evil:
          - In Order To Keep The Sinner In Its Grasp!

- But - By Doing So:
  - It Reveals Its True Nature!
    - A Nature Of Total Darkness:
      - That Will Always:
        - Lead To Despair!
- Because - We Also See:
- The Intensity:
  - Of Sin - In 7:13c:
    - “That sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful!”
  - Sin Is Greedy!
    - It Always Takes:
      - And Is Never Satisfied:
        - Until It Takes All!
    - **IE:** It Is Like An Enemy Spy When He Gets Exposed! At That Point - There Is Nothing To Lose!  
Going To Try To Take As Many Out With Him As Possible!
      - This Is What Sin Does As Well!
- God - Through His Good Law:
  - Exposes The True Nature Of Sin!
  - It’s Intent - To Slay You!
  - It’s Iniquity - And Complete Darkness!
  - And - It’s Intensity - Its “Exceeding Sinfulness!”
- And - There Are Times:
  - When Even Those Who Are:
    - Steeped In And Addicted To:
      - Certain Sins - Themselves:
        - Come To Hate Their Sin & Even Hate Themselves:
          - Because Of Their Sin!
  - They Hate It:
    - Even Though:
      - They Can’t Escape It!
- And All Of This Exposes:
  - The True Nature Of Sin!
    - And We Must Never Forget It!
      - Have You?
        - Does Sin Not Seem So Sinful Anymore?
  - Need To Remember:
    - There Is Absolutely Nothing:
      - Good About Sin!

\* But Then - A Second Thing - That You And I Must Never Forget - Is:

**2. *The True Nature Of The Word!***

- The True Nature Of God’s Word & God’s Law:
  - 7:14 - “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin!”
    - Going To Focus On:
      - Just The First Part Of This Verse:
        - For A Bit!
    - “For we know that the law is spiritual!”
      - What Does This Mean?
  - Well - Based On What Paul Already Tells Us About God’s Law - In 7:12:
    - It Means That God’s Word & God’s Law:
      - Is “Holy And Just And Good!”
        - As A Whole & In All Of Its Parts!
  - But - It Also Means That:
- The Source - Of God’s Law:
  - Is Spiritual!
    - The Word & The Law Of God:
      - Reflects The Very Character And Nature:
        - Of God Himself!

- And - Since God Is A Spirit:
  - John 4:24 - “God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth!”
    - Then - That Which Comes Forth From Him:
      - Is Spiritual As Well!
- God’s Law Is Spiritual:
  - Because It Comes From:
    - A Spiritual God!
      - But - This Also Means That:
- The Substance - Of God’s Law:
  - Is Spiritual!
    - To Be “Spiritual” Often Refers To Something:
      - That Is “Absolute And Unmixed!”
        - IE: Like Pure Water - With Nothing Dissolved Into It!
    - This Is:
      - What The Law And The Word Of God:
        - Is Like!
  - It Is Perfect:
    - And - It Is Pure!
      - Psalm 19:7-9 - “The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple. / The statutes of the LORD [are] right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD [is] pure, enlightening the eyes. / The fear of the LORD [is] clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD [are] true [and] righteous altogether!”
  - God’s Law Is Spiritual:
    - Because It Has:
      - A Nature That Is Perfect And Pure!
        - But - It Also Means That:
  - The Strength - Of God’s Law:
    - Is Spiritual!
      - That Is - It Was Never Meant:
        - To Be Just A Physical And External:
          - Restraint On Your Behavior!
    - The Spiritual Law Of God:
      - Speaks To:
        - The Spiritual Nature:
          - Of Man!
    - God Uses It:
      - To Convict Your Conscience:
        - Not Just To:
          - Condemn Your Acts!
  - And All Of This Expresses:
    - The True Nature Of God’s Law:
      - And We Must Never Forget It!
        - Have You?
          - Does The Bible Just Seem Like Any Other Book? Something Can Just Take Or Leave?
    - Need To Remember:
      - God’s Law Is Spiritual:
        - And Is Always:
          - “Holy And Just And Good!”

\* But - How Do We As Christians - Interact With These Two Opposing Forces?

- Sin And The Law?
  - Well - In The Rest Of The Verses Of This Chapter:
    - Paul Wants Us To “Never Forget”:

### 3. *The True Nature Of Our Walk!*

- That There Is A Tension:
  - For As Long As A Christian Lives In This World:
    - Between The Wickedness Of Sin:
      - And The Goodness Of God's Law!
  - And This Is Because:
    - There Is Within A Child Of God:
- A New Sensitivity To Sin!
  - Which Is What We Find In:
    - 7:14b - "But I am carnal, sold under sin!"
      - To Be "Carnal" Here:
        - Is Something In Contrast With:
          - The "Spiritual" Nature Of God's Word And Law!
  - Whereas The Nature Of God's Law:
    - Is Unmixed Perfection & Purity:
      - Our Nature - As Christians:
        - Is Mixed!
  - Now - We Believe That:
    - Paul Is Speaking Here:
      - As A Christian - Because:
        - From This Point On Until The End Of The Chapter:
          - He Uses Verbs In The Present Tense - Versus - Past Tense - In 7:7-12!
  - So - This Is His New Experience As A Christian!
    - And He Knows That:
      - There Is Still Within Him:
        - That Old Fleshly Nature:
          - That Is Still Weak, And Worldly, And Greatly Wanting!
      - Not That He Is Content:
        - With This - Even As We Should Not Be!
          - But - Here - He Is Just Stating Things As They Are!
  - He Is Still - And - We Are Still:
    - "Carnal" - Because:
      - We Were - At One Point:
        - Completely "Sold Under Sin!"
          - We Were Its Slaves!
      - And Even Though We Know:
        - That Sin Is No Longer Our Master:
          - Sin Doesn't Quite See It That Way Yet!
  - As We Will Sing Shortly:
    - From Thomas Dorsey's Hymn:
      - "Precious Lord, Take My Hand, Lead Me On, Let Me Stand, I Am Tired, I Am Weak, I Am Worn!"
        - Even Though We Don't Like It:
          - This Is Our Present Condition!
  - There's A New Man Within Us - Yes!
    - But - There's That Old Man:
      - Still Clinging On!
        - But - Even This Awareness And New Sensitivity:
          - Is Evidence Of The New Creature God Has Made You To Be!
  - But - To Explain What He Means:
    - When He Says That He And We Are:
      - "Carnal" - He Then Reveals That There Is:
- A New Struggle Against Sin!
  - In 7:15-16 - "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. / If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good."
    - Here - The Experience Paul Has:
      - Is A Common One For All Believers!
        - And It Is:

- A Confusing Struggle - At Times!
  - 7:15a - "For that which I do I allow not!"
    - "Allow" - Ginosko - To Know:
      - I Don't Understand!
        - Why Did I Do That?
        - How Could I Do That?
- A Concerning Struggle At Times!
  - 7:15b - "For what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I!"
    - Shows An Internal Conflict:
      - Between What:
        - You Desire - And What:
        - You Detest!
    - But - Where Does That Desire:
      - And New Will Come From?
        - Philippians 2:13 - "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure!"
    - And So:
  - Even Though The Struggle Within You:
    - May Be Confusing At Times And:
      - Concerning At Times:
        - It Still:
    - A Convincing Struggle:
      - Because - It Shows That:
        - God Is Still At Work In Your Life:
          - Convincing You Of What Is True And Right And Good!
      - 7:16 - "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good!"
    - So - This New Struggle:
      - That Is Within You:
        - Between The Wicked Nature Of Sin And:
          - The Good Nature Of God's Word:
            - Shows God's Work Still Going On Within You!
      - And That Leads To:
    - A New Sense Of Sin!
      - In 7:17-19 - "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. / For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. / For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do!"
        - So - The Question Often Comes:
          - Why The Struggle?
          - Why Still Sin?
          - Where Does It Come From?
        - Never Forget:
          - Though You Are Dead To Sin:
            - Sin Is Not Quite Yet Dead:
              - To You / In You!
        - Because Of:
      - The Remaining Tenacity Of Sin:
        - 7:17 - "Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me!"
          - This Is Not An Excuse - But An Explanation!
        - There Is - Living In Every Believer:
          - A Dying - But Still An:
            - Indwelling Sin!
        - **IE**: Like A Drowning Spider - Very Tenacious - Still Hanging On!
          - But - You Must Never Forget:
            - Who Really Is Your New Master And Owner And Inhabitant Of The House Of Your Soul!
          - Also:
      - The Remaining Taint Of Sin:
        - 7:18a - "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing!"

- Sin Still Taints Your Flesh:
  - Your Fallen Nature!
- And So - In That Old Man:
  - That Still Indwells You:
    - There Is No Good!
    - Nothing Beautiful!
    - Nothing Beneficial!
- Not Referring To:
  - The Image Of God Within You:
    - That Is The Value & Worth:
      - Of Your Soul!
  - But - In Your Flesh:
    - You Can't Please God!
- And This Leads To:
- The Remaining Trap Of Sin:
  - 7:18b-19 - "For to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. / For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do!"
  - Again - Not An Excuse - But An Explanation!
- Even Though:
  - There Is Now The:
    - Will & The Desire:
      - To Do Good:
        - Given By God!
  - There Is Still:
    - The Way:
      - Of Doing Good:
        - That Is Often Blocked By Sin And Flesh!
  - Remember - Matthew 26:41:
    - "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak!"
    - Need To Keep Watching & Keep Praying!
- And Paul Provides:
  - An Example Of What This Trap Feels Like:
    - For A Christian!
      - Ever Feel This Way?
        - 7:19 - "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do!"
    - What's Going On? What Am I To Do?
      - This Is Still God And His Law At Work In Your Life!
  - So - Even With Sin's Tenacity & Taint & Trap:
    - You Still Have:
- A New Strength Over Sin!
  - 7:20 - "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me!"
  - Its Not The New You:
    - It's the Old You!
    - So:
  - Sin Is No Longer:
    - A Natural, Normal Thing:
      - For You! It Is:
        - Unnatural / Abnormal!
        - Out Of Character!
- So - Never Forget:
  - The True Nature:
    - Of Your Walk With Christ!
      - It Is Still A Struggle!
        - Galatians 5:17 - "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would!"



**Conclusion:**

1. So Remember - That Now:
  - We Need To Live Like:
    - There Is Still:
      - A Battle Going On!
      - Not Forgetting! 9/11!
  - But - There's No Need To Despair!
    - Because The War Is Already Won!
    - 7:25 - "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
2. But Still:
  - There's A Struggle!
    - But This Struggle:
      - Is A Sign - For Believers!
  - Don't Give Up:
    - In The Struggle!
3. Never Forget:
  - The True Nature Of:
    - Wickedness & Sin!
    - God's Word & His Law!
    - And - Your Walk As A Christian!
  - And Then:
    - Remember Jesus' Words:
      - To You:
        - Matthew 26:41 - "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak!"
        - Keep Watching!
        - Keep Praying!

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