

“Who Shall Deliver Me?”
Romans 7:21-25

Introduction:

1. Please Open Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Romans 7:
 - Where The Apostle Paul:
 - Has Been Trying To:
 - Put Into Words:
 - His Own Experience:
 - As A Believer In A Christ!
 - And So - In Romans 7:18-20:
 - Where We Were Last Week - He Writes:
 - “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!”
2. With These Words:
 - Paul Is Trying To:
 - Capture The Internal Conflict And Struggle:
 - That Often Goes On:
 - In The Christian’s Heart!
 - Have You Ever Felt This Way?
 - If You Are A True Follower:
 - Of Jesus Christ - Then:
 - Not Only ***Have*** You Felt This Way:
 - You Probably ***Do*** Feel This Way:
 - More Times Than You Like To Admit!
 - Well - What Do You Do:
 - When You Experience This Struggle?
 - When Your Old Flesh:
 - Fights Against Your:
 - New Spirit?
 - Do You Give In?
 - Do You Give Up?
3. Well - By God’s Grace:
 - He Will Enable You To Do:
 - What Paul Did:
 - Which Is What We Find:
 - In The Rest Of Romans 7!
 - Beginning In 7:21-25:
 - “I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. / For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: / But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. / O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? / I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin!”
4. So - What Are You To Do:
 - When You Continue - Even As A Christian:
 - To Struggle With Sin?

* First - There Should Be:

1. ***A Personal Assessment Of Your Struggle:***
 - Which Is What We Find Going On:
 - In 7:21 - When Paul Says:
 - “I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me!”
 - When Paul Says That:
 - He “Finds” Something Going On Within Him:
 - It Is Based On:

- An Examination:
 - Of His Own Heart!
 - The Struggle He Felt Going On Within Him:
 - Was So Confusing At Times - And:
 - Was So Concerning At Times:
 - That He Needed To Know More About It!
 - He Needed To Know More About Himself!
 - And So - He Examined Himself!
 - How Many Times In The Bible:
 - Are Believers Called:
 - To Take Time To Personally Examine Themselves:
 - In The Light Of God's Word And Spirit?
 - In 1 Corinthians 11:28 - Paul Tells Us:
 - That Even Before Participating In The Lords Supper:
 - "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup!"
 - And In 2 Corinthians 13:5 - Paul Tells Us To Even:
 - "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"
 - So - Self-Examination:
 - Is An Important Part:
 - Of The Christian Life:
 - So That We Can Discover:
 - Who We Really Are & What Is Really Going On Within Us!
 - **IE:** The Great Early-American Pastor And Theologian, Jonathan Edwards, Who Is Well Known For His List Of 70 Resolutions - Made Self-Examination Part Of His Daily Devotions! In His 24th Resolution - He Stated:
 - "Resolved: Whenever I do any conspicuously evil action, I will trace it back till I come to the original cause; and then I will carefully endeavor BOTH 1) to do so no more AND 2) to fight and pray with all my might against the source of the original impulse!"
 - You See - Jonathan Edwards Understood The Importance Of Self-Examination And Personal Assessment In His Christian Life!
 - And So Should You!
 - And This Kind Of Spiritual Examination:
 - Requires:
 - Time!
 - Thoughtfulness! (Openness)
 - And - Truth!
 - Both God's Truth & Your Truthfulness!
 - Go To The Lord Daily - And Make:
 - David's Cry Your Own Cry:
 - Psalm 26:2 - "Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart!"
 - Psalm 139:23 - "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: / And see if [there be any] wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"
 - When There Is This Kind Of Examination:
 - In Your Life - What Will You Find?
 - The Same Thing The Jonathan Edwards Found! The Same Thing That The Apostle Paul Found! And So - We Find:
- An Explanation:
 - Of His Heart:
 - In 7:21b - "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me!"
 - What Did Paul Find?
 - "A Law!"
 - Now - In These 5 Verses:
 - Paul Uses The Word "Law" Seven Times!
 - But - He Uses It In:
 - Its General Sense:
 - That Is - Meaning A General Rule Or Guide Of Some Action!

- Something Like:
 - **IE:** The “Law Of Gravity” That Was Spelled Out By Sir Isaac Newton:
 - When He Saw An Apple Fall Straight Down To The Ground:
 - And Wondered What Caused It To Do So!
 - BTW - The Apple Didn’t Fall On His Head! And - The Apple Tree Still Exists In England!
 - Gravity Is Not:
 - A Written Law - But:
 - A Natural Law:
 - A Principle That Governs All Physical Objects In This World!
 - And This Is How Paul Uses:
 - This World In The Rest Of Chapter 7!
 - And We Can See This Further:
 - Because Of The Words He Attaches To “Law” Throughout!
- So - After Personal Examination:
 - From The Illumination Of God’s Word And Spirit:
 - He Discovered A New “Law” Or:
 - Principle Of Living!
 - And That Was:
 - “When I would do good, evil is present with me!”
 - So - Even Though:
 - His Will Had Been Changed - And:
 - His Desire Was Renewed By God:
 - To Pursue After Those Things That Are Good! Yet:
 - His Way - And The Path Of His Life:
 - Was Still Littered With:
 - The Inclination And The Ability To Do What Was Bad!
 - Now - This Did Not Mean That:
 - Sin Was Invincible - And:
 - Sin Was Inevitable:
 - For Him!
 - Because - As A Christian:
 - Sin And Evil:
 - Are Vanquished!
 - But - The Choice:
 - To Do Wrong:
 - Was Still “Present With Me” Paul Says!
 - And - All Too Often:
 - He - And We - Would Make:
 - The Wrong Choice!
 - You Too Need To Take The Time In Your Busy Life:
 - To Personally And Honestly:
 - Assess Yourself - In The Light Of:
 - God And His Word!
 - And When You Do:
 - You Will Find:
 - The Same Thing Going On In Your Heart:
 - As Paul Did!
 - And Then - You Should Have:
 - The Same Question:
 - 7:24 - “Who Shall Deliver Me?”
 - Especially When You Learn More About:

2. A Personal Account Of Your Struggle:

- Which Is What Paul Describes Further In 7:22-23:
 - “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: / But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members!”

- Once Again - Paul Tries To Explain:
 - His Personal Experience As A Christian:
 - And The Ongoing Struggle Between His New Spiritual Man & His Old Sinful Nature!
- And - He Uses The Term “Law” To Try:
 - To Capture The Different:
 - Impulses And Desires:
 - That Are Mixed Together In:
 - Our Hearts!
 - First - There Is:
- The New Delight:
 - Which Is In The “Law Of God” - And Is:
 - “After The Inward Man!”
 - This New Delight:
 - Can Only Come From God:
 - And Can Only Be Found:
 - In The Heart Of A True Believer In Christ!
 - Before Paul Was Saved:
 - The “Law Of God” Was Something:
 - That His Sin Used:
 - To Crush Him!
 - But Now That He Was Saved:
 - The “Law Of God” Was:
 - His Delight!
 - Of Course - This Can Apply To:
 - God’s Word As A Whole!
 - But - Specifically:
 - He Refers To:
 - The Moral Law Of God:
 - And His Ten Commandments!
 - His New Heart Could Say:
 - Psalm 119:97 - “O how love I thy law! it [is] my meditation all the day!”
 - The Love Of His Life:
 - Was Now The Lord - And So:
 - He Wanted To Follow His Will & His Way:
 - As Revealed In His Word!
 - He Found Is Greatest Pleasure In:
 - The Pondering And In:
 - The Pursuit:
 - Of God’s Good Law!
 - What A Testimony!
 - What A Delight!
 - Is This Statement True For You Today?
 - 7:22 - “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man!”
 - This Is The Biggest & Best Part:
 - Of The Account & Life:
 - Of A Believer!
 - But - Paul Also Noticed:
 - The Old Desire:
 - 7:23 - “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members!”
 - Now - We Don’t Need To Get Confused:
 - With The Three “Laws” He Refers To Here - Because:
 - He’s Already Referred To Them, But In Different Terms!
 - The Law In His Members:
 - Is His Old Desires:
 - That Are Connected To:
 - His Natural, Fallen Flesh!

- This Law Refers To The:
 - Natural Impulses:
 - To Sin!
- The Law Of His Mind:
 - Is His New Desires:
 - That Are Connected To:
 - His New Life In Christ!
 - 1 Corinthians 2:16 - "We Have The Mind Of Christ!"
 - This Law Refers To:
 - The Spiritual Impulse:
 - To Do What Is Right!
- The Law Of Sin:
 - Is The Pull Of Sin Itself:
 - That Draws Our Natural Members:
 - To Find Satisfaction In:
 - The Lusts Of The Eyes, The Lusts Of The Flesh, And The Pride Of Life!
- These "Laws" Are All Things:
 - That Are Impulses - That Try To:
 - Drive And Regulate Your Life!
 - And - This Is The Struggle:
 - That Every Believer Will Find Within Themselves, In One Way Or Another!
- So - Your Old Flesh:
 - The Law Of Your Members:
 - Wants You To Go One Direction:
 - And Satisfy Your Own Desires And Will!
- Your New Heart:
 - The Law Of Your Mind:
 - Wants You To Go The Other Direction:
 - And Satisfy God's Desire And Will!
- And - Then There Is Sin Itself:
 - The Law Of Sin:
 - That Still Indwells Your Flesh:
 - And Draws You Toward:
 - The Desire And Will Of The Devil!
- And This Is:
 - A Real Battle - A Real War:
 - Going On Within You!
 - And - At Times:
 - You Let Sin Gain The Upper Hand:
 - And Even Become A Captive To It Once Again!
- And This Account Of:
 - Not Just Paul's Life And Experience:
 - But Yours:
 - Should Cause You To Cry Out With Him:
 - Every Day In This Struggle:
 - 7:24 - "Who Shall Deliver Me?"
- And This Leads To:

3. ***A Personal Appeal In Your Struggle:***

- Even As The Apostle Paul Exclaims:
 - 7:24 - "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
 - Paul Makes His Own Appeal:
- With Great Feeling!
 - "O Wretched Man That I Am!"
 - Or - Simply - "I Am A Wretched Man!"
 - This Is A Very Strong Word!

- So Strong - That Even Some Modern Hymnal Editors:
 - Have Changed The Phrase Used By John Newton - In Amazing Grace - "That Saved A Wretch Like Me" - To:
 - "Saved A Soul Like Me" - Or:
 - "Saved And Set Me Free!"
- But - This Is The Word Paul Used:
 - To Describe His Deep Feelings:
 - Of Utter Worthlessness:
 - Even As A Saved Man!
- The Prophet Jeremiah:
 - Had A Similar Feeling:
 - When He Was Taken Into The Throne Room Of Heaven - And Was Confronted With The Holy Nature Of God!
 - In Isaiah 6:5 - "Then said I, Woe [is] me! for I am undone; because I [am] a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"
- So - Even Though You:
 - May Be Justified By Faith:
 - Yet - Until Heaven:
 - This Feeling Of Utter Wretchedness Will Not:
 - Be Far From A Child Of God!
- Because - The More You See And Know God:
 - In The Height Of His Holiness:
 - The More You Will See And Know:
 - Yourself In The Depth:
 - Of Your Depravity!
 - As William Hendrickson Once Put It:
 - "Due To The Law Of Sin Still Operating In Him, He Is Unable To Serve God As Completely And Wholeheartedly As He Desires!"
- Do You Feel This Way:
 - About Your Own Condition:
 - Before The Lord?
 - This Is The Kind Of Humility That Caused Paul To Consider Himself - Until His Dying Day:
 - As The Chiefest Of Sinners! (1 Timothy 1:15)
- And So - With This Great Feeling:
 - He Makes His Appeal:
- With Great Fear!
 - 7:24 - "Who Shall Deliver Me From The Body Of This Death!"
 - Paul Still - Even As A Believer:
 - Knew That He Needed Deliverance:
 - From This Internal Struggle:
 - Between His New Nature & His Old!
 - **IE:** He Felt Like His Heart Was Stuck In A Spiritual Quicksand! That The More He Struggled - The More He Would Sink!
 - He Knew That:
 - He Could Not Deliver Himself:
 - From The Struggle!
 - He Was Completely Dependant:
 - On The Power Of Someone Else:
 - To Rescue Him!
 - To Paul:
 - This Ongoing Struggle:
 - Felt Like Death To Him!
 - Is This How:
 - You Feel - And:
 - Is This How You Fear:
 - In Your Struggle With Sin?

- Or - Do You Keep Trying:
 - To Get Out Of The Quicksand Of This Struggle:
 - On Your Own?
- You Need To Feel This Way:
 - About Your Natural Self! And:
 - You Need To Fear This Way:
 - About Your Own Helplessness:
 - In This Struggle!
- Because - Only Then:
 - Will You Be Ready To Receive:
 - And Rejoice In:

4. *A Personal Assurance In Your Struggle!*

- 7:25 - "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin!"
 - It Doesn't Take Paul Long:
 - To Remember That:
 - Even Though There May Be:
 - Death At Work For Him!
 - There Is:
 - "Light For A Look At The Savior, And Life More Abundant And Free!"
 - So - Paul Receives The Answer To His Plea:
 - As Well As An Assurance:
 - About His Deliverance!
 - First - He Thanks God!
 - He Gives Him The Praise & Glory:
 - That He Is Due:
 - For Saving A Wretch Like Him!
 - And This Is:
 - Your Assurance:
 - As A Christian!
 - **IE:** Its Like Already Having The Answer Key When You Are Working On A Math Problem!
 - And This Deliverance Comes:
 - "Through Jesus Christ Our Lord!"
 - Not Only Was This Paul's Hope:
 - This Is Your Hope!
 - The Salvation Of Jesus!
 - The Sacrifice Of Christ!
 - The Sovereignty Of The Lord!
 - Is Still All You Need:
 - To Be Rescued From The Old "Law Of Sin" That's Still Within You!
 - The Gospel:
 - Is Still The Answer:
 - For Your Struggle With Sin!
 - But - How Does He Deliver You:
 - From Your Body Of Death?
 - By First - Coming:
 - To Seek & To Save You:
 - When You Were Lost!
 - Then - By Fulfilling:
 - His Role As:
 - Your Substitute! In Life & In Death!
 - And Then - By Being:
 - Your New Lord & Master:
 - Who Loves You & Empowers You & Helps You In Your Struggle!
 - Do You Have This Assurance Today?
 - That Jesus Christ Is Still Able:

- To Deliver You?
 - “Though By Sin Oppressed, Go To Him For Rest! Our God Is Able To Deliver Thee!”
- And Then - You Will Be Able To Have:
 - Assurance:
- About Your Dependence:
 - In The Ongoing Struggle With Sin!
 - 7:25b - “So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin!”
 - Now - At First:
 - This Seems Like A Let Down:
 - After The Assurance Of Deliverance:
 - In The First Part Of The Verse!
 - Its Almost Like Paul Is:
 - Resigning Himself:
 - To This Struggle!
 - “Well - Que Sera Sera - Whatever Will Be Will Be!”
 - But - I Don’t Think This Is What He Means With This Statement!
 - Instead - He Is Acknowledging That:
 - Because Of The Deliverance Of Christ:
 - Now - He Really & Truly:
 - Delights In & Serves:
 - The “Law Of God!”
 - This Is A Huge Change:
 - From Romans 3!
 - A Huge Change:
 - For A Sinner!
 - But - He Also Acknowledges:
 - The Ongoing Reality:
 - Of The Struggle In This World!
 - It Is Only His *Old* Nature:
 - That Is Drawn To Sin!
 - And - Even When He Sins:
 - He Can Always Return:
 - To His Deliverer:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion:

1. Do You Have This Assurance:
 - Even When You Are Struggling:
 - With Sin?
 - Remember That:
 - You Have A Deliverer - And:
 - You Can Depend On Him:
 - No Matter How Strong The Pull Of Sin & Your Flesh Feels!
2. So - “Who Shall Deliver You?”
 - In Your Ongoing Struggle:
 - With Sin And Your Flesh?
 - 7:25 - “I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

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