

“The Struggle with Remaining Sin”
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Text: Romans 7:14-25

1. The spiritual law cannot restrain a carnal man. (vs 14)

[14] For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.

This is not Greek dualism!

Colossians 2:8-23

1 John 4:1-3

2. Paul describes his sense of helplessness. (vs 15-19)

[15] For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. [16] Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. [17] So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. [18] For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. [19] For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

This helplessness is described further in (vs 22-24):

[20] Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

[21] So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

[23] but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

3. The Exasperated Paul (vs 24)

[24] Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

4. Paul finally looks outside of himself to Jesus. (vs 25)

[25] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin. (ESV)