

BOOK OF ROMANS
WHAT THE LAW DOES-PT 2
AFTER SALVATION
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Introduction

This is one of the easiest passages in the **BIBLE** for me to identify with. It tells the **ABSOLUTE TRUTH** about the **LIFE** of the **BELIEVER!**

Some believe that **PAUL** is describing the life of a **CARNAL BELIEVER**. That he is talking about **BELIEVERS** who refuse to **YIELD** to their lives to **SPIRIT OF GOD**. However, I read these verses and to me ,they are intensely personal. It is as if **PAUL** rips the covers back from his **LIFE** and gives us an intimate portrait of himself and his personal **STRUGGLES**.

But rather than it being a description of a **CARNAL BELIEVER**, this is a portrait of a **MATURING SAINT!** It is the way that **LIFE** was for **PAUL** as a **CHILD OF GOD!**

Most of us, if we're honest, could say that we can **IDENTIFY** with most everything **PAUL** says in these verses. While **PAUL** is writing about his own **STRUGGLES**, he is, at the same time, writing about our **LIVES** as well. Let's look into these verses this evening and see if we can **IDENTIFY** with what is portrayed in this passage.

I. WE SEE PAUL STATES THE FACTS. Vs. 14

A. Fact #1–The LAW Is Spiritual!

PAUL stated in the previous verses that there was a **PROBLEM** with us and the **LAW OF GOD** before we got **SAVED**.

The **PROBLEM WAS NOT WITH THE LAW**, the **PROBLEM** was with us! He reminds us here that the **LAW OF GOD** is **SPIRITUAL** in **NATURE**. The **LAW** is a **GOOD THING** and it lays down rules for proper living. The very fact that it originated with **GOD** is proof positive that it is not bad. The **PROBLEM** does not lie with the **LAW**, but with man!

The LAW Is Spiritual...

B. Fact #2–Our FLESH Is Sinful!

The word "**carnal**" means "**fleshly**". While the **LAW** would teach a man how to live godly, man's **FLESH** is only interested in that which is **SINFUL!**

What **PAUL** is saying here is that there was a part of him that is was still under bondage to sin! ("**sold under sin**") Our **OLD NATURE**, that is to be **RECKONED DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN**, is in fact alive and well if we do not reckon it differently!

But, there is a part of us that cannot sin! Our **SPIRIT** has been **REDEEMED** and has been **FOREVER SEALED FROM SIN!** We cannot **SIN** in that part of our beings!

However, this **FLESH** can be as **WICKED** as it ever was! It can be as **MEAN** as it ever was! It still **POSSESSES** all the same **OLD, UNGODLY, WORLDLY APPETITES** that it has always had. It is as **PAUL** states here "**sold under sin**". It always has been and ever will be the **SLAVE OF SIN!** Our **FLESH IS WICKED!**

SIN is so **WRETCHED** and **POWERFUL** in the life of even the **REDEEMED** that it is ever striving to dominate all of life!

II. WE SEE PAUL STATES HIS FAILURES. Vs. 15-20

A. We See The Struggle! Vs. 15-16

PAUL describes the **STRUGGLE** that exists within every **BELIEVER**.

The word "**allow**" means "**to know**." **PAUL** is saying that **he does not even know why he does what he does!** **We've all been there, haven't we!**

He wanted to live right... "for what I would do"
But then he didn't do it... "that do I not"

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**He hated doing wrong ... “but what I hate”
And yet he did wrong... “that do I”**

This was the **STRUGGLE** going on inside of **PAUL!**

The simplest way to understand what he is saying here is that there was a part of him that **AFFIRMED THE LAW**. That **NEW MAN**, who came to life on the **Damascus Road** wanted to do the **WILL OF THE LORD** and **STROVE TO DO SO!**

But at the same time, there was another part of **PAUL** that yearned for everything the **LAW DENIES**. When **GOD** says something is good, the **FLESH** wants just the opposite. When the **LAW** says something is bad, the **FLESH** wants it!

What he is describing here is a **STRUGGLE** between the **OLD MAN** and the **NEW MAN**

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.”

B. We See The Strugglers! Vs. 18-19

We’ll come back to *verse 17* in a minute.

The **STRUGGLE** described here is between two **PAULS**—**OLD PAUL** and **NEW PAUL!** The **NEW PAUL** wanted to **do right** while the **OLD PAUL** wanted to **do wrong**.

These two men shared one body and they fought over everything. He found that **he was hindered when it came time to do the right thing** and **he was helped when it came time to do the wrong thing**.

We all can identify with that tonight! Amen?

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There is a part of us that wants to **please God in everything we do**, but there is another part of us **that fights us at every turn**. It is very frustrating to say the least!

C. We See The Summation! (The “*conclusion*” if you will)
Vs. 17, 20

Twice in these verses, **PAUL** tells us that the **problem** he had was with his **OLD SIN NATURE**. That **OLD NATURE** is still with us after we are **SAVED!** That wasn't the **SAVED, NEW PAUL** that was constantly doing the evil and avoiding the good. It is the **OLD PAUL**, who still longed for wickedness that was at fault.

Now PAUL wasn't making excuses for his sins! He wasn't throwing up his hands and saying, “*Oh well, why fight it? If it feels good do it!*” That wasn't his attitude at all, and that will become clear in a moment. But sadly, that seems to be the attitude that has been adopted by many **BELIEVERS!**

Many people grow **WEARY** from the **STRUGGLE** and **GIVE IN** to the **WILL OF THE FLESH**. There can never be **VICTORY** when that happens!

PAUL’S STATEMENT is **NOT** one of **RESIGNATION**, it is one of **VICTORY!** He is telling us here that there was a **NEW MAN** living in his body and that **NEW MAN** was **ABOVE** that **OLD SINFUL LIFESTYLE**.

That **NEW MAN LOVES THE LORD** and that **NEW MAN WILL FIGHT** until the day he is **DELIVERED FROM THE FIGHT** and **FROM THE BODY OF SIN AND EVIL!**

WE SEE PAUL STATES THE FACTS...14

WE SEE PAUL STATES HIS FAILURES...15-20

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III. PAUL STATES HIS FINDINGS! Vs. 21-23

A. We See Paul's Companion! Vs 21

PAUL found that every time he tried to do **GOOD**, **EVIL** was always there with him!

Every good word, every good deed, every good thought, every good motive and every good thing was challenged by evil.

We find it to be true too don't we? If we are able to do any **good thing**, it most always comes with a **BATTLE!**

When we would do good, there always seems to be some temptation to do evil!

It is hard to keep our motives pure!

It is difficult to control our thought processes!

The only people who do not **STRUGGLE** with a **SINFUL NATURE** are those people who are **LOST IN SIN!** They are following *the course of this world, the prince of the power of the air*, and their own *sinful nature controlled by their lusts!* (*Ephesians 2:1-3*)

However, when a **BELIEVER** goes against the grain of the **WORLD** and the **FLESH** and the **DEVIL**, there is always a **STRUGGLE!** **EVIL** is a constant, wicked companion!

B. We See Paul's Confession! Vs. 22

PAUL tells us here that he loved the **LAW** after the **INWARD MAN!** Whatever **GOD** said in **HIS WORD** was a **DELIGHT** to the **NEW PAUL!**

That should be true for as well us if we are truly **BORN AGAIN!** When we do **RIGHT** and gain **VICTORY** over our **FLESH** and its **WRONG DESIRES**, our **INWARD, NEW MAN DELIGHTS IN THAT!**

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On the other hand, if a person hears the **WORD OF GOD** and **HATES** the very thoughts of doing things **GOD'S WAY**, something is very **WRONG** deep within!

C. We See Paul's Captivity! Vs. 23

Although **PAUL'S HEART** was set on doing the **WILL OF GOD**, there was another part of himself that fought him at every turn and sought to bring him into captivity again!

Just as **JESUS** warned **HIS DISCIPLES** in *Matthew 26:41*, "*The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*"

Again, this is a situation with which all of us can identify!

The inner, **NEW MAN** wants **GOD**, the old, **FLESHLY MAN** wants the **WORLD!**

Thankfully, there was nothing wrong with **PAUL'S SALVATION**, and there is nothing wrong with ours!

PAUL'S problem was that his **FLESH** was ever trying to bring him into **BONDAGE AGAIN**. That is a problem we all face day to day. If we are not **DILIGENT** in our **STRUGGLE** with the **FLESH**, we will be **DEFEATED** by our **SIN!** If we do not take our **STAND** against the **FLESH**, it will win the day!

PAUL FOUGHT his **FLESH!**

(e.g. *1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 1 Corinthians 6:12-13*)

While we are **SAVED BY GRACE**, and that **SALVATION** is forever, we must **FIGHT SIN** every day our lives here.

IV. PAUL STATES HIS FAITH! Vs. 24-25

A. We See Paul's Problem! Vs. 24

Paul expresses his desire to be **FREE** from his decaying, **FLESHLY NATURE**. He wanted to be **FREE**. I think he was frustrated and defeated by his own inability to overcome evil.

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He wanted to be **FREE!** And that should be the desire of **EVERY CHILD OF GOD!**

How many of us are ever pleased when we face the **TRUTH** of how we actually live? The answer is that **NONE** of us can be pleased with the way we are. We want to be **FREE** of this **SINFUL, WRETCHED BODY!**

B. We See Paul's Prospect! Vs. 25a

Here **PAUL** states **WHERE** his **VICTORY** is coming from. He reminds us that the day is coming when we who are the **CHILDREN OF GOD** will be **DELIVERED** from our **VILE WRETCHED** bodies.

For as long as the **LORD** leaves us here, our day by day **VICTORY** over this sinful flesh comes from the **LORD!**
2 Corinthians 4:6-11

If the LORD calls for US by way of DEATH, we will leave this FLESH behind! *2 Corinthians 5:1-10*

If the LORD calls for US by way of the RAPTURE, this FLESH will be CHANGED! *1 Corinthians 15:50-58*

C. We See Paul's Proposal! Vs. 25b

This verse is not a declaration of Paul's defeat. He is not saying that he will just keep wanting to do what is right in his heart while he keeps doing what is wrong with his body.

What he is saying is that he is not giving up the fight! There will be good days and there will be bad days, but he is going to stay the course! He is not giving up, he is resolving to fight!

Conclusion

PAUL'S RESOLVE should be our RESOLVE!