

Romans 7:14–25

Intro: As 7-13 was to Paul's conversion, 14-25 is to his sanctification.

XXIV. Indwelling Sin

A. First Recognition of My Reality - vs 14-17

1. My Condition - vs 14

a. For - carries the idea of "because"

b. we know that the law is spiritual

i. The Law is not the problem

ii. Salvation by grace doesn't devalue the Law b/c it was never the means

iii. Salvation is always the provision of God's grace by faith - Heb 11

c. but I am carnal,

i. I am still of the flesh, earthbound, and mortal

ii. Believers are not in the flesh (in the realm of) - 7:5; 8:8-9,

- no longer bound and enslaved to its sinfulness

- we are not in the flesh, the flesh is still in us

d. sold under sin - 1Ki 21:20,25; 2Ki 17:17

i. some think this refers to an unsaved person

ii. Paul uses similar phrase in vs 23 referring to his members

e. Sin is so wretched and powerful that, even in the redeemed person, it hangs on and contaminates his living and frustrates his inner desire to obey God

2. The Proof - vs 15

a. For what I am doing, I do not understand.

i. *ginosko* - to "know" (absolutely) in a great variety of applications and with many implications

ii. Frequently used of special relationships between people - Mt 7:23; Ga 4:9; 1 Co 8:3; 2Ti 2:19

b. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.

i. Paul finds himself doing things of which he did not approve

ii. When looking at and agreeing with God's law, he found himself practicing that which was contrary to it

iii. Not the conscience bothering him about unconfessed sin

iv. The inner man is grieved at the least infraction of the law - Ga 5:17

- created in the likeness of Christ - Eph 4:24,

- indwelt by the Holy Spirit - Ro 8:9,11; 1Co 3:16; 2Ti 1:14; Jas 4:5

3. The Source - vs 16-17

a. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

i. when he fails, it is not the law's fault

ii. The inner man wants to do what God has commanded, there is something else at work - Ez 36:25-27

b. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

i. not an attempt to evade personal responsibility - vs 14

- "but now" - a change from then

- *ouketi* - a negative adverb of time, indicating a complete and permanent change

- "I" - the new inner man, - Ga 2:20

ii. After salvation, sin is like a deposed, exiled ruler, no longer reigning, but continuing gorilla warfare to mess with those under a new sovereign

B. Second Recognition of My Reality - vs 18-20

1. My Condition - vs 18a

- a. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;
 - i. the “me” in whom nothing good dwells, not the same as the “I” of vs 17
 - ii. The inner man - see A.2.b.iv.
- b. Sin only now resides in the flesh - vs 5,14
 - i. the body is not sinful, is still subject to sin,
 - lusts - Ro 6:12; 13:14; Eph 4:22; Tit 2:12; 1 Pe 2:11; 2 Pe 1:4
 - the need for mind renewal, - Ro 12:2; Eph 4:23; Phil 2:5; 3:15; Col 3:2
 - to not believe lies - Phil 3:19; 1 Pe 1:13;
 - ii. is a beachhead from which to operate in believer’s life, - Ro 7:23;

2. The Proof - vs 18b-19

- a. desire to do good, follow God’s law is there and grows b/c the new inner man
 - i. for to will is present with me, - vs 18b - Phil 3:12-14
 - ii. For the good that I will to do - vs 19a
- b. The inner struggle b/c of practice
 - i. but how to perform what is good I do not find. - vs 18c
 - ii. I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. - vs 19b

3. The Source - vs 20-17

- a. a repeat of vs 16-17 to prove the point
- b. I don’t want to do it, and yet I do it - Now if I do what I will not to do,
- c. It isn’t me, but that which is yet unredeemed - it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

C. Third Recognition of My Reality - vs 21-23a

1. My Condition - vs 21

- a. The continuing presence of evil in the believer’s life is so universal that Paul calls it a Law - I find then a law,
- b. that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. - Ge 4:7

2. The Proof - vs 22-23a

- a. The first proof that sin is no longer his master
 - i. For I delight in the law of God - Ps 1:2 - *sunedomai* - to rejoice in with oneself, feel satisfaction concerning, delight.
 - ii. according to the inward man - 2Co 4:16; Eph 3:16; Col 3:9-10
- b. The second proof that sin is no longer his master
 - i. But I see *another* law in my members,
 - *heteros* - (an-, the) other or different:--altered, else, next (day), one, (an-)other, some, strange.
 - it doesn’t operate in the inner person, but in the members
 - ii. warring against the law of my mind, - the redeemed inner man

3. The Source - vs 23b

- a. and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin - 2 Co 10:3-5
- b. which is in my members. - Ga 5:17

D. The Final Recognition of My Reality - vs 24-25

1. O wretched man that I am!

2. Who will deliver me from this **body of death**?

- making clear that the unredeemed part of him remains subject to sin and death
- *rhomai* - to rush or draw (for oneself), rescue, set free, deliver(-er).

3. I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! - 1Co 15:57

- a. So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God,
- b. but with the flesh the law of sin.