

Monday, June 26, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 7:21–25

Questions from the Scripture text: What does he find within him (v21)? What does this “law” state must be present with him? But who is he at this point? How does he now feel about the law of God (v22)? In what aspect/part of himself? But what does he see where (v23)? Warring against what? And trying to do what by this warring? How does this make him feel about his current condition (v24)? What question does he ask? What does he call his body? What is his initial response to this question (v25)? Through Whom will he be saved and thank God? How does he summarize his current condition?

Why can a believer be so sure that he will win the internal battle against sin? Romans 7:21–25 looks forward to the sermon in the upcoming midweek meeting. In these five verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **though the spiritual battle must rage as long as we are still in these bodies, the God Who has united us to Christ is our sure hope of ultimate victory in that war.**

In this passage, the apostle uses the word “law” in three ways.

The law that evil is present with me. He has already noted, twice, that sin dwells in him (v17, 20) as well as noting that there is still flesh in him (v18). But he has differentiated himself from the man that he used to be, who had been a slave to sin (v14b), because now he wills to do what is good (v21b, cf. v15b, 19a). So, he is sure that he is a new kind of man, born of the Spirit as the good law was (v14a), because he now delights in that law in his inner being (v22). But still, evil is present with him, and he ultimately concludes that this will be a certainty as long as he is in the body of death (end of v25).

The law of his mind. Here, he uses the word “mind” to talk about his regenerated thoughts that consider God’s law—even down to the commandments—not an enemy but as holy, righteous, and good (v12). The new man that agrees with God’s law that it is good (v16b). The new man that delights in God’s law in his inner being. This is the law of his mind or, as he will call it in 8:2, “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.” Finally, God’s commandments have come to be written upon His heart, so that His most fundamental desires match God’s fundamental commands (cf. v6b).

The law of sin (and death). But the law that evil is present with him, the law that is “in my members” (v23), means that adoration and desire and delight aren’t the only things that he feels toward God’s law. The sin that dwells in him still tries to respond to God’s law with disobedience, still uses the “letter” of the law to escape from its righteousness and goodness and assert its wickedness instead. Every part of who he is (“my members”) continues to be affected by indwelling sin. So, there is a war on, as the remaining sin tries to recapture its old slave (v23b).

In this life, the Lord has let His saints in the same decaying bodies that are the effects of our sin and fall in Adam. As long as we are in them, we know that there will be remaining sin dwelling in us. The apostle feels this state to be truly wretched (v24). But, thanks be to God (v25a!) this condition, and the war that we find ourselves in, is not permanent. We will be winning more and more as we go along (cf. 8:1–2, 4, 5b, 6b, 9, 11b, 13b–14). And we will be finally and fully delivered at last (v25a, cf. 8:17, 18, 23b). In fact, for many believers, they will be rid of this mortal body long before the resurrection, and will be perfected in holiness the moment that they depart to be with Christ. Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord! So, as you see different responses to the law coming out of you, learn to identify when you are responding according to the inward man, in Christ, by the Spirit—and distinguish it from when you are responding according to the flesh, from the sin that still dwells in you. And having thus identified the enemy, strike blows against it in your war with indwelling sin!

What commandments do you often find a fleshly response to in your heart, wondering how much you can “get away with” and still keep them? What sins do you seem most to keep on committing?

Sample prayer: Lord, our hope is in You. Deliver us from that sinfulness that still dwells in us. Increase our skill in identifying what is coming from our flesh and what is coming from Your Spirit, and give us to do battle by Your Spirit, we ask through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH193 “Baptized into Your Name Most Holy”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Roman 7 verses 21 through 25. These are god's words. I find then a law that is that evil is present with me. The one who wills to do good. For i delight in the law of god. According to 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. Oh wretched. Man. That i am. Who will deliver me from this body of 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. So far, the Reading of god's. Inspired and inherent worked. So, the apostle uses the word law in three different ways here. One. Is. His sinful nature. Evil or that which remain. Sorry, not a sinful nature. He has a new nature. That's one of the main things here.

Uh, one way that he uses the word law is to refer to His remaining sin. And that's in verse 21. I find then a law. That evil is present with me. The one who wills to do good. It is always true. It is always a reality. That his evil is present with him in this life.

He will not be fully sanctified. Uh, in this life. As long as he is in this body, That's one of the reminders to us. Thankfully, when a believer dies, And he sheds, this body. Uh, his soul and body are separated in death, but praise god, as he says elsewhere, His soul departs and does with christ.

And he prefers that his soul would be clothed with the presence of christ, even then that he would, that it would be clothed with the body. Uh, to remain and

Enjoy the does god's design for a human being to be body and soul. But in order for the soul to depart and be with christ as to be perfected and holiness.

And it will be. The moment you die. If you are a believer in jesus, Death will be. The moment at which your soul is perfected and holiness. And the Body that began to decay while your soul was wearing. It will really accelerate and decay once you die. And you'll become warm food.

And then worm excrement. But god will raise that body even then. From the dead. On the day of the resurrection. But as long as you are in this body, as long, As we our body and sold together with a decaying body, which is why he calls it, the body of death, You can see that death is in operation in it.

Even when you're young, there are indications of it and sin illness and things not working the way they should. But just wait until you start to get old and everything starts to break down. Even if you are in good health. Just a few decades. And the whole thing will start coming unraveled.

And then that body. Will return to dust. It's a body of death. And as long as your soul is in your body of death, Your soul has evil present with it. It's a law. It will always be true. It's a rather than trying to pretend it away. Or excuse it.

We should deal with it in the way that the lord teaches us which will especially be hearing about In the first half of chapter 8, does he gets us? Uh, gets us ready for that because god is the one. Who deals with it and who helps us with it?

But that's the first sort of law. I find a law that has eat. That evil is present with me. The one who wills to do good And then there's two other ways that he uses the word law. One is. The law, the good commandments of god, especially. As embraced by a spiritual person.

A person that the spirit has given new life to, And so he's going to continue to describing it that way. When we get into chapter 8, he's going to refer to god's law as the law of the spirit of life. The law as a converted person who delights in it in his inner being Um, like he says, in verse 22, who thing, who sees it as holy and holy and, and the commandment is holy and Justin, and good as he says, Excuse me.

As holy and just and good. As he says in verse 12, the law. That he agrees with. As he says in verse 16, Uh, this law. Is. The law of god. In the hands of the spirit of life. The law of god as his new nature in christ responds to it.

And we know how jesus responds to the law. Don't we? We have a wonderful. Uh, instruction in it, throughout the bible and especially Psalm 119. And we love and delight in god's law. That's the mind of christ. That is the mind in verse 22. That is the mind that the spirit of life gives to a believer.

Whom he brings to faith in jesus christ. That is the view of the law that the spirit increases. Then in that believer, The more and more, he conforms him to christ by that faith. But there's also, Still, because there's evil present in us. And their sinfulness present in us.

And we've seen what sin does with the law of god doesn't, haven't we? And we know that we still have those reactions. Don't we sometimes on the lord's day in our inner heart, and in our mind, The thing to ourselves. Well, how can i do this thing that i really want to do and not be breaking the sabbath?

And i have in my mind, two pictures. One is an old testament professor of mine. Who appears in my memory and folds his arms and looks down his nose and says, you just broke the sabbath. Uh, but also Uh, the reminder from this chapter Romans 7. That when i have that sort of internal response, i know where it's coming from.

It's not coming from my new nature in christ. My new nature in Christ. Does not respond to god's good law. That way that's coming from remaining sin. That's coming from the sin that dwells in me, the one who wants to do good. And so i can say, aha, i see you.

Indwelling sin. I see you my former nature. I am going to delight in the fact that it's God's day and i'm going to delight in him. And i'm going to stop trying to figure out how much i can get away with and still be keeping the sabbath. What a ridiculous idea.

But you see how recognizing The difference between the law of god and the hands of the spirit of life. And the law of god in the hands of as he is going to call it in. Chapter 8 and verse 2, sin and death. Uh, you see the difference in how we respond to the law of god internally?

So, those are the three uses of law here. I delight in the law of god, according to the inward man. Number two. The law on the hands of spirit of life. 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.

Well, we know who's going to win. Between the law of the, in the hands of the spirit of life. Exactly right. If one is the law in the hands of the spirit of life and the other is in the law, the law and the hands of our remaining sin, which one's going to win, God exactly.

And so, when he thinks about the, the one that's fighting against him he says Oh, wretched, man. That i am, who will deliver me from this body of death? And the answer is. Exactly. Verse 25. I thank god through. Jesus christ. Our lord. He already he's in the middle of the battle.

He feels wretched in the battle. Buttery already knows. That he must win the battle. Because the battle is between. God. In christ, by his spirit, on the one hand. And that which remains. From my former nature. On the other hand. Oh yes. It makes us wretched. But it's days are numbered.

And it's defeat is sure. And so he summarizes. This experience of the law in two different hands in his heart. At the end of verse 25. So then with the mind and by that, you means with my new nature given to me by christ, With the mind. I myself serve the law of god, but with the flesh, There's that remaining flesh in him.

The law of sin. And which do we want to win? We want To serve the law of god. We want to respond to god's law. According to the spirit of life. And so, when you see those Those two things in combat and you see How the, how your heart responds?

And when you see how your heart under the influence of your remaining sin, you're in dwelling sin responds to god's law. You start knowing how to recognize the target. And attack it. And take the right side. He's going to talk more about this battle and how its waged. And now it's one, Uh, going into chapter 8, praise god.

So, My dear children. I hope you are aware of your inner thought life. And how you respond to god's? Good law. And, Uh, learning the practice from These passages. That we're hearing on the Wednesday nights. And in the corresponding family, wishes, i hope you're learning the practice. Of taking sides in your inner thought life.

As there are two sides. The law of the spirit of life. Well, is the good guys? The lobs and in death. The bad guys. It's bright. Be to you. O God. Through jesus christ. Our lord. Grant that your spirit and his spirit. Would help us more and more to remember.

And understand. And love. And apply your work. Right. It's truth on our hearts. We ask in jesus name Amen.