

PAUL'S STRUGGLE TO BE SPIRITUAL
Romans 7:14-25

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul has given his personal experience with the law of Moses and his conscience.
 - 1) Romans 7:9
 - 2) Romans 7:11

 - B. Paul knew that the law did not make him sin or make him a sinner.
 - 1) "the law is holy" - The entire law.
 - 2) "the commandment is holy, just, and good."
 - 3) "thou shalt not covet."

 - C. The conflict that the law caused in Paul did not end with his conversion.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit worked before salvation to produce a sense of guilt and inadequacy.
 - 2) After salvation the Holy Spirit continues to produce the same feelings when we sin.
 - 3) John 16:7-8
- I. The Two Natures Identified vs. 14
- A. "For we know that the law is spiritual"
 - 1) "know" = oida = "we have perceived", "seen"
 - 2) "spiritual" = pneumatikos = "belonging to the spirit", "determined by the Spirit", "proceeding from it"

 - B. "but I am carnal, sold under sin"
 - 1) "carnal" = sarkinos = "of flesh", "fleshly"
 - 2) "sold" = piprasko = "to be sold into slavery",
 - 3) "sin" = amartia = "failure to reach a standard", "hooked on sin"
- II. Paul's Conflict Stated vs. 15
- A. "For that which I do I allow not:"
 - 1) "allow" = ginoso = "to know"
 - 2) "I do not understand my own actions" TENT

 - B. "for what I would, that do I not:"
 - 1) "I do not act as I desire to act" Mof.
 - 2) "for I do not what I would" Con.

 - C. "but what I hate, that do I"
 - 1) "hate" = miseo = "to hate", "active ill-will"
 - 2) "I do what I loathe"

III. Paul's Conflict Proved That He Believed the Law vs. 16

- A. "If then I do that which I would not,"
- 1) "But if my will is against my deeds." Con.
 - 2) "Now when I act against my wishes." Mof.
- B. "I consent unto the law that it is good"
- 1) "consent" = sumpsemi = "to speak with", "to express agreement with"
 - 2) "This means I agree that the law is good"
 - 3) Since Paul was evil, the fact that the law caused him grief meant the law was good. Food never agrees with evil, never!

IV. Paul's Assessment of His Flesh vs. 18-20

- A. "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing:"
- 1) "I know I am rotten through and through" - so far as my natural self is concerned.
 - 2) "nothing good has its home in me"
- B. "for to will is present with me;"
- 1) "will" = theho = "to wish", "to desire"
 - 2) "present" = parakeimai = "to be beside or near", "be ready at hand"
 - 3) "for the wish to do right is there"
- C. "but how to perform that which is good I find not"
- 1) "perform" = katergazomai = "to work out, effect"
 - 2) "for the wish to do right is there but not the power", "I want to but I don't know how"
- D. "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." vs. 19
- 1) "I do not do the good things that I want to do"
 - 2) "I do the wrong things that I do not want to do!"
- E. "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." vs. 20
- 1) "well, if I act against my wishes...." Mof.
 - 2) "the action is no longer my own" Tent
 - 3) "but sin, which has its home in me."

V. The Laws In Our Members vs. 21-23

- A. "I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me." vs. 21
- 1) "I discover this principle, then..."
 - 2) "when I want to do right, the wrong is always in my way"
 - 3) "present" = parakeimai = "to be ready at hand"

- B. "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:"
vs. 22
- 1) "delight" = sunedomai = "to joy or to rejoice with anyone, to delight in anything with another or others"
 - 2) "inward" = eso = "within, adverb of place, telling where"
 - 3) "man" = anthropos = "man", "looking up"
 - 4) "For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man"----NASB
- C. "But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind," vs. 23a
- 1) "members" = melos = "a limb of the body"
 - 2) "warring" = antistrateuomai = "to lead out an army against", "to oppose", "to war against"
 - 3) "but I see another principle operating in my lower nature, battling against the principles which my reason desires."
- D. "and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." vs. 23b
- 1) "captivity" = aichmalotizo = "to make prisoners of war"
 - 2) "Which makes me a prisoner, to the power of sin which my lower self contains."

VI. The Pain That Paul Felt vs. 24

- A. "O wretched man that I am!"
- 1) "wretched" = talaiporos = "enduring toil and hardship", "the state arising from this"
 - 2) "It is an agonizing situation"
- B. "who shall deliver me from the body of death?"
- 1) "deliver" = ruomai = "to draw or snatch to one's self" "to draw or snatch from danger"
 - 2) "who can save me from this deadly lower nature---Wms.
 - 3) Paul is frustrated. He is in spiritual adolescence!

VII. Paul Sums Up His Situation vs. 25

- A. "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- 1) "Thank God, there is deliverance through Jesus Christ, our Lord."
 - 2) "I thank God [that He has now delivered me] through Jesus Christ."----Con
- B. "So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God:"
- 1) "mind" = nous = "the organ of mental perception", "the organ of conscious life"
 - 2) "serve" = douleuo = "to serve as a slave"
 - 3) "so mentally I am a slave to God's law"

- C. "but with the flesh the law of sin"
 - 1) "flesh" = sarx = "corporeity according to its material side", "the outward form of human nature"
 - 2) "but my natural powers are at the disposition of sin"

- D. This conflict will not end until the body, "flesh", is changed! There are only two ways.
 - 1) By physical death, literal.
 - 2) By the rapture.

