

STRUGGLING IN SIN

Romans 7:1-25 (KJV)

Introduction:

This chapter of scripture has been misunderstood by many.

It is sometimes said that this chapter is speaking about the un regenerate person.

But I don't believe that for a moment as the Apostle Paul is speaking in the second half of this chapter referring to himself, and we all know that he was converted by the Holy Spirit of God (sealed with the Holy Spirit), who had done His work of regeneration in Paul.

Questions you should then ask yourself?

1. If the Apostle Paul was not a born-again believer; sealed by the Holy Spirit, then why would he be called an "Apostle" by the will of God?
2. Also why would God use an "Unbeliever, an "Unsaved" person to write most of the NT of God if that was true.
3. Also if you could lose your salvation then why would the Apostle Paul be writing most of the NT.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, **called to be an apostle**, separated unto the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, **called to be an apostle** of Jesus **Christ through the will of God**, and Sosthenes *our* brother,

- Therefore, and even by the scriptures as we shall see shortly, it would be highly impossible to be talking about the unsaved.
- Instead Paul is showing us by example and reminding us about what Gods Law requires, and by it how we are judged.

Question:

- ✓ **Which one of us can say that we are without sin?**
- ✓ **And how can we know what sin is?**

1. By way of introduction we are first reminded by Paul as he spoke to those who already knew the law, that is the moral laws of God, and thus he was addressing them and reminding them of what God said and what he requires.

This is a section of scripture that was addressed to the "brethren", as he was speaking to the believers or those claiming to having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. So it is to this group of people to which the scripture is addressed and to Paul as he reminds everyone present there that he too was under

this same bondage, of the flesh. He was explaining that he was a prisoner to it (the flesh).

3. The most important point Paul reminds these people of, is that “the moral law, (the ten commandments) will have dominion of all people so long as he shall live.
- **So let’s begin to unfold the understanding of these words of scripture, so we can understand what is going on.**

An opening statement by Paul (10 commandments Deut 5:6-21) Ex20:

Romans 7:1 ¹Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth?

- **Deuteronomy 5:1-3** ¹And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them. ²The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb. ³The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

- ✓ **And here is one of those laws as he goes on to give an example.**

Romans 7:2-3 ²For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

³So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

- **The Comparison of this law is unto “death do you part”**

So as Paul delivers the next verse 4 it give us that comparison.

1. **As believers in Christ you become dead to that body.**

Romans 7: ⁴Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, **even to him** who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

2. It is the example of becoming freed from your previous spouse in death.
3. The law has identified your reason to be freed, and that reason was sin.
4. Now to be free to be married to Christ.

⁵For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to **bring forth fruit unto death.**

1. It was the realization that the law could make known to us the motions of our sin, and thereby bringing us to a point to acknowledge our sin, and thereby bring us to a point of spiritual death by our sin.

2. Unless we could find ourselves dead in the law (spiritual laws of God), we could not be made alive.
3. Being made alive by Christ.

⁶But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

1. Paul acknowledges and reminds us all that we are delivered from the law. Jesus Christ has come to deliver us all from the Law. Rom 8:3.
2. We were in a state of “death”, a “spiritual death”.
3. We were once held in a place where we could not be delivered from, the place in which the law of God itself could not deliver us but served as a sign post, to show us what our needs were. **That sign post was to reveal sin in our lives.**
4. It was to show us that by sin was death, and by the Word of the Law sin was known.
5. The law of God would reveal our need to serve in the “newness” of the “spirit”.

⁷What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the law:** for **I had not known lust, except the law had said,** Thou shalt not covet.

✓ **But Could the Law Save?**

1. If the Law was not able to save, then the question was asked in Romans 7 verse 7, what then?
2. If the Law was not able to save, which it could not as we know?

➤ **Romans 8:3** ³For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

3. We see in the OT that the Law was not able to save? (only faith saves).

Genesis 15:6 ⁶And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. (*speaking about Abraham*)

Galatians 3:6-8 ⁶Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. ⁷Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. ⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

- ✓ No Law in the OT served to save anyone, it was the school master to bring them to faith.

Galatians 3:24

Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

4. The question posed then in Romans 7 verse 7, is..... **“is the law sin?”**
5. The Apostle Paul was anticipating questions coming from the “brethren of the Law”. And one of the questions he anticipated already, and so we see here he asks it anyway for them is. He says.....
6. If the Law of God was not able to save?, then why was it given?
7. He quickly follows up that question with the answer, and that answer was Romans 7 verse 7b....., **“I had not known sin, but by the law**

⁸But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence (*covetousness*). For without the law sin was dead. (*meaning unknown*)

- It was only by the moral laws of God; that we can know what sin is?
 1. The commandments of God, (10 commandments) had brought to our attention Gods moral and righteous standards.
 2. In other words Sin was “illuminated” in our minds when God brought forth his commandments.
 3. We are sinners and we transgress Gods commandments, his laws.

⁹For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Once I was Alive and Could do anything!

- Remember how it felt when you left school and became your own free agent. Your own free person.
 1. You thought that you could do anything now that you were not at home and under any ones rule.
 2. No longer could your parents or your school teachers tell you what you could and could not do. You were free to do as you pleased.
 3. You did what you wanted, and even enjoyed doing it.
- Well that is how it is when there are no rules, no laws and nothing to be responsible for or to.
- Well that’s what the Jews and everyone else thought when they made up their own rules and laws.
 1. But when Gods rules and His “Laws”, (His commandments) came, all that changed.
 2. No longer could they think that they were free agents. First of all they were never free agents, because right from the beginning Gods Laws were already in place.
 3. It’s just that people thought that they could do what they wanted if it felt good to them. But that does not make it right in of itself.

Romans 7 ¹⁰And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

Judgement came upon all by Gods Word. V10.

1. That's why Paul could say, that it was Gods Commandment and His laws that had passed judgment upon him, and in so it would be death unto him, for he had sinned by those very commandments. The light was now upon him, and he was a condemned man.
2. No longer could anyone be free agents to do as they please.
3. There was a mirror of righteousness which when they looked into they could see themselves in the reflection.
4. Spiritual Death was now staring them in their face.

Romans 7 ¹¹For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

1. For by it Gods Law,.....revealed the sin.....it came and revealed itself to Paul, and slew him just as it slays everyone of us.
2. Then and now we are slain by Gods Law.

➤ **So what are we to do about it.....**

3. Sin had deceived Paul, and it was only revealed when he could look into the mirror of Gods Holy righteousness that he could see just how sin had deceived him, and he declares it to have "Slain" him.
4. The word "Slain" is used to having cut down with catastrophic consequences.
5. The occasion of deceptiveness was revealed, sin was at its full-blown point of impact, and Gods Word had revealed it to him, and cut him down.

➤ **Pauls thankfulness to GOD.**

Romans 7 ¹²Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

1. The Law is Holy (Gods commandments).
2. **Just and Good.**

Romans 7: ¹³Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

➤ The question asked by The Apostle Paul, which would be the question asked by us all.

1. We cannot use our own standards to think that they are good.
2. It was not the Word of God that would kill him, but the sin he had known by the word of God that would kill him.
3. Just because we think something is right does not mean it is?
4. Our views count for nothing, and cannot stand in the day of judgement.

➤ The commandments are there to judge righteously, they are not there to judge anything else but sin.

5. The commandments are to expose sin, it was not singled out Paul said.

6. God's Word judges all, he is no respecter of persons.
7. The Law was not just to Judge Paul, but everyone alike and he said that.
8. God forbid, the Law was not just to judge him but all in unrighteousness'
9. Sin was exposed Paul said, and that meant it was working death in him unless he repented (turn to God from unbelief) and turn and believe in Jesus for salvation.
10. You see, Paul knew that the word of God revealed sin, and that sin could be forgiven by Jesus.

14For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

➤ Because the Law comes from God, and given by God, it is spiritual.

1. God's word appeals to our spirit.
2. Paul said he was carnal, not because he was not a believer, but because he was still of the flesh of Adam, and so had his Adamic nature. He was sold under sin.
3. Therefore his Adamic nature was to cause him to sin.
4. The very term used "sold under sin in verse 14, indicates to us that Paul knew his flesh was weak and would succumb to sin. That is why he said he always had to keep his body under subjection. Constantly asking the Lord to help him fight the desires of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 9:27

But I keep under my body, and bring it into **subjection**: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Ephesians 2:3

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in **the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.**

15For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

1. It was a constant struggle for Paul, and he let us know it.
 2. Can you imagine if we thought that Paul was perfect?
 3. What would that have done to think that we are perfect?
 4. Would that not have destroyed us, and we would have thought we can be perfect too.
 5. We would all have given up, and thinking we are perfect and that we were not capable of sinning anymore?
 6. In all three circumstances in verse 15, Paul teaches and tells us that he is fighting the flesh. He is not fighting the world or Satan, he is fighting his flesh which is the cause of his corruption.
- **If ever there is an inkling that we cannot do anything but submit to the flesh as if we have nothing else left to do, think again in the Lord.**

2 Corinthians 10:2-4

²But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. ³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

7. If we think we are able to conquer the flesh we will not be able to do it. It is only by the power of God, that we can be sustained. We need to ask God daily for His strength to get us through each and every day.

➤ This same teaching is taught by the Apostle Paul in Galatians.

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.

➤ But we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

OUR CONSTANT STRUGGLES IS WITH THE FLESH

Romans 7 ¹⁶If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

¹⁷Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

¹⁸**For I know that in me** (that is, in my flesh,) **dwelleth no good thing**: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

1. Our fight is with the flesh, which is constantly causing us to sin.
2. We recognise our sin by the Law, and yet still find it difficult to stop sinning. This is the war within us.
3. Try as hard as you might you will not stop sinning.
4. The will to do good is within our minds, but how to perform it still causes a great struggle within us.
5. We are always doing things which we know is wrong and should not do them, but do them anyway.
6. We don't need others to help us sin, we can do quite well just on our own.
7. In and of ourselves we cannot find how to perform that which is good.
8. It takes the Lord to sort us out.

WHATS OUR SOLUTION

➤ Our solution to the flesh is our Lord.

Romans 8:1-4 ¹There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²**For the**

law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³For **what the law could not do**, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh:** ⁴**That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

Therefore,

➤ **The only way is through Christ our Lord.**

Romans 7 ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

1. Paul brings to us a realisation of our shortcomings.
2. Sin has caused us to stumble.
3. No matter how slow or how fast we walk through this life we will stumble over sin.
4. It will always be in our pathway, to trip over, and to block our path.

GODS LAW IS OUR LAW

1. Pauls tells us again and again, and now he sums it up for all of us to see.
2. Just like a great mathematician, he is keenly aware of what is happening, and shares the insight with us and those believers around him at the opening of this epistle. As we see now in verse 21 next.

²¹I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

²²For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

1. The inward man in Paul is longing to serve God and walk in Gods ways, but there is a problem.
2. There is another law at work. Verse 23.

²³But 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.

1. There is a law in his members that he was not initially aware of.
2. This law was messing with his mind.
3. His members (the flesh) had its laws, and his mind had its laws, and these were warring against each other.
4. This war is so strong that it even overcomes the mind. We see here in verse 23, Paul says what it was doingit was...
5. **bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.**
6. On your own you will succumb, unless you have Christ helping you every day.

²⁴O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

²⁵I 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.

- It is only when we come to Christ daily can he deliver us.
- We need to walk after the Spirit to be freed from the **flesh**. (Romans 8:1). ¹There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Jesus Christ has freed us from the Law.

Pray.....