

Right in God's Sight

Studies from the Book of Romans

Lesson 10

Romans 7:14–25

Romans 7:14–23

The Christian's Conflict

Paul has been instructing that the law has a God-given purpose: to make people fully conscious of their sin and show them how much they need God's forgiving grace. Earlier in chapter 7, Paul used himself as the example, stating that if it were not for the law he would not have realized the repeated tendency or depth of his sin. And, just like Paul, no matter how well intentioned we may be, none of us can successfully live by the standards of the law—our human nature is much too weak. Paul will continue to prove this out in the latter part of the chapter.

Read Romans 7:1–13 for review; adding verses 14–25 for this week's study.

Glancing back at verse 13, Paul states that it is not the law, but rather sin that condemns us. The law itself is good and holy, given to point us to God; but once we recognize sin by the law, the desire to do it further is aroused in us by the command not to do it.

Here we are faced with a predicament that is difficult to solve: how is it possible to desire to do what is right and yet still do what is wrong? Even more perplexing is the question that if we are free from sin, then why do we continue to struggle with it all of our lives? Is there no hope for those who have put their trust in the Lord? Once again Paul points to himself as the example in an attempt to find the answer.

1. What does Paul say about the law in v. 14?
 - a. What statement does he make about himself in this verse?
 - b. Paul wants to do what is right but what does he end up doing instead? v. 15
 - c. If Paul knows that what he is doing is wrong, what does it show? v. 16
 - d. What causes Paul to react this way? v. 17

2. Personal: Can you relate to the conflict Paul is describing here? Briefly share a recent example of a conflict in your own life.

3. What pivotal declaration does Paul make here? v. 18a

a. What dilemma does he face? vv. 18b–19

b. What conclusion does he repeat? v. 20

In verses 21–23, Paul uses the law to illustrate the principle that even when we want to do good, evil is present with us.

4. What two conflicting laws does Paul mention in verses 22 and 23? What result does each one produce?

a. v. 22

b. v. 23

Each one of us can easily identify with the ongoing conflict that is produced between these two: the desire to obey God's law—the law of my mind; and the law of sin—that which is against the law of my mind. As long as we are on the earth we will always be waging the war, but there is hope and Paul is about to explain why.

Look Closer:

In another of Paul’s letters (from which our memory verse is derived), we see similar words that spell out the ongoing conflict and how to resolve it. Carefully read through 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 and finish the following in your own words. This week practice bringing these points to the forefront of your mind and watch the results!

- *For though we walk*

- *For the weapons of our warfare*

- *For we must*

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:4–5

“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”

Word Wealth:

Using the resources you have on hand (i.e., additional Bible translations, dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.), write a definition for the words below.

delight (7:22) _____

inward (7:22) _____

warring (7:23) _____

deliver (7:24) _____

Romans 7:24–25 The Question: Not How, but Who?

In the closing verses of chapter 7, Paul summarizes the entire chapter by restating the problem and introducing the solution.

1. In your own words, what is the dilemma, the heart of the problem in verse 24?
2. What is the liberating truth you can give thanks for in verse 25?

Human nature tempts us to want to add something to our salvation (our own plan, our own procedure, our own program) so that we feel we had a part in it; but Paul is clearly stipulating that Jesus Christ accomplished it all on the Cross! He alone paid the full price for our sin; we cannot add anything—it is finished! The answer to our dilemma is not found in any program or method or even in a principle; it is found only in Jesus.

3. Personal: How does Hebrews 12:1–2 help you today?

Selah . . .

It is not, “*What shall deliver me—but WHO shall deliver me?*” Jesus is the Key for you now and each day hereafter. Jesus said in John 15:5, “*I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*” Take a moment to jot down what you are currently struggling with and how God has spoken to you through His Word this week. Then offer it back to Him—tell Him you want to put Jesus directly in the middle of your circumstances. Ask Him to enable you to bring even every thought about your situation captive to make it obey Christ! Lastly, thank Him for making this possible for you.

“When it is a question of our justification, we have to put away all thinking about the Law and our works, to embrace the mercy of God alone, and to turn our eyes away from ourselves and upon Jesus Christ alone.” John Calvin

My Romans Road

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at this week's lesson. Briefly recap what you learned this week and how you intend to live it out.

1. What lesson in your study became real to you this week?

2. How do you intend to apply this lesson to your daily life?

Memory Verse:

Write down what you learned about God from this week's memory verse.

Write out the verse from memory.

Prayer Request:

Write out your most earnest prayer request and lift it to the Lord.
