

The Book of Romans

- I. Paul's **Introduction** to his Letter (1:1-17)
- II. Paul *Declares* Man's **Need** for God's **Salvation** and **Righteousness** (1:18-3:20)
- III. Paul *Delivers* his Gospel Message of **Righteousness** by **Faith in Messiah** (3:21-5:21)

IV. Paul *Describes*, and gives **Instructions** concerning the **Life** and **Walk of Believers in Messiah** (6:1-8:39)

- A. He *Instructs* them to **live** as those who have both **Died** and been **Raised** in **Messiah** (6:1-14).
- B. He *Implores* them to **live** as **Servants of Righteousness** (6:15-23)
- C. He *Informs* them that they have "**Died**" to **the Law through the Body of Messiah** (7:1-13)

D. He *Illustrates* his **Personal Struggle** with the **Law** and **Indwelling Sin** in the **Flesh** (7:14-25)

1. *Revealing His Struggle* in **Keeping the Law** (7:14-17)

¹⁴ For we know that the **Law** is **spiritual**,
but I am of **flesh**, ***sold*** into **bondage to sin**.

¹⁵ For what I am ***doing***, I do not ***understand***;
for I am ***not practicing*** what I *would like to do*,
but I am ***doing*** the very thing I ***hate***.

¹⁶ But if I ***do*** the very thing I ***do not want to do***,
I ***agree*** with the **Law**, *confessing* that the **Law** is **good**.

¹⁷ So now, ***no longer*** am I the one ***doing*** it, but **sin** which ***dwells in me***.

2. **Recognizing His Struggle** is with **Indwelling Sin** (7:18-20)

¹⁸ For I know that **nothing good dwells in me**, that is, in **my flesh**;
for the **willing is present in me**,
but the **doing of the good is not**.

¹⁹ For the **good** that I want, I do **not do**,
but I practice the **very evil** that I do **not want**.

²⁰ But if I am **doing** the very thing I do **not want**,
I am no longer the **one doing it**,
but **sin** which **dwells in me**.

3. **Realizing His Conflict** is between two opposing “**Laws**” (7:21-23)

²¹ I find then the **principle** that **evil is present in me**,
the **one who wants to do good**.

²² For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the **inner man**,

²³ but I see a **different law** in the **members of my body**,
waging war against the **law of my mind**
and making me a **prisoner of the law of sin** which is in my members.

²⁴ Wretched man that I am!
Who will set me **free** from the **body of this death**?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus the Messiah our Lord!
So then, on the one hand **I myself** with **my mind** am **serving** the **law of God**,
but on the other, with **my flesh** the **law of sin**.

Personal Application

1. In tonight’s text, Paul declared that the Law is “**spiritual**.” The Law comes from God who is Spirit, and expresses God’s will for the behavior of man. In contrast Paul revealed that he was “**of flesh**,” and “**sold into bondage to sin**” (7:14).

Although he had been **freed** from sin through Messiah (6:18), Paul was still “**of flesh**,” and as he had shared earlier, **struggled** with **indwelling sin** in the “**members**” of his body (6:5-11). In our text tonight, he details his **inward struggle** with the **Law**, and **indwelling sin** in his flesh (7:15-24).

2. Paul revealed a **struggle within himself**. He was **not practicing** what he would like to do, but instead, he was **doing** the very thing he ‘**hated**.’ He recognized that if He was **doing** the very thing that he **did not want to do**, that this in itself was **evidence** of a **personal belief** that the **Law** was good. He resolved that his **struggle** was between his **desire to do good**, and **indwelling sin** (7:15-17).

As **believers, we too** are “**of flesh,**” and have a *struggle* with **indwelling sin**. Like **Paul, we too** can find ourselves **confused** by **thoughts** and **desires** that we know are **not** the **will of God**. We even may “**do**” that which we “**do not want to do.**” As a result, **we too** can conclude that the **source** of our *struggle* is with “**sin in the flesh.**” (7:15-17)

3. **Paul** acknowledged that in **his flesh** dwelled “**nothing good.**” At times **he** was “**willing,**” but **not able** to **do** the **good** that **he wanted** (7:18). Once again **he** concluded that this **inward struggle** is due to **sin** which “**dwelled**” in **him** (7:19-20).

At this point, **Paul** declares this **principle**:

“...that **evil** is **present** in me,
the **one** who **wants** to **do good** (7:21).”

He recognizes that there is a *struggle* within himself to “**serve**” **two** existing “**laws.**” With **his mind**, he “**joyfully**” **concurs inwardly** with the **law of God** (7:22).

However, **Paul** sees a **different “law” (law of sin)** in the **members** of his **body**, “**waging war**” against the “**law**” of **his mind**, that makes him a “**prisoner**” of the “**law of sin**” in his **bodily members** (7:23).

As **believers**, we readily agree with the **principle** that “**evil is present**” in the one who wants to **do good** (7:21). We also *struggle inwardly* with **two existing**, but **contrary influences (laws)**. With **our mind**, our “**inner man,**” we seek to **do the will of God**. However we also face a “**different**” law which “**wages war**” against us **inwardly**, in an attempt to *imprison us* to a “**law of sin**” in the **flesh** (7:23-24).

Beloved, I urge you as **aliens** and **strangers** to **abstain** from **fleshly lusts** which **wage war** against the **soul**. (I Peter 2:11)

But I say, **walk by the Spirit**,
and you will not carry out the **desire of the flesh**.

For the **flesh** sets its **desire against** the **Spirit**,
and the **Spirit against** the **flesh**;
for these are in **opposition** to **one another**,
so that **you** may **not do** the **things** that **you please**. (Galatians 5:16-17)

4. Having described his *struggle* with **sin** in **his flesh**, **Paul** declared in **frustration** how he longed to be **delivered** from “the **body** of this **death**” (7:24).

He then **gave thanks** to **God through Jesus the Messiah**. **Paul** concluded that in **Messiah** he was now **free to choose**. With **his mind** he could **serve** the **law of God**.

On the other hand, **he** could **choose** to **serve** the **law of sin** that resided in **his flesh** (his **carnal nature**) (7:25).

As **believers, we too** can **suffer inward frustration** as we seek to **serve the Lord**, and **walk** according to **His will**. However, **we too** have a *choice*, for we are **no longer** in **bondage to sin**, having “**died to sin**” through the **body of Messiah** (6:2-6).

Not only that, but **we** have the **presence** and **power** of the **Holy Spirit**, who gives “**life** to our **mortal bodies**,” and helps us “**put to death** the **deeds** of the **body**” (8:11-13).

Closing Comments

Help! “I am of **flesh**, sold into *bondage* to **sin** (7:14).”
Thankfully, Someone redeemed us, and freed us
from **this *bondage***

,..and having been **freed from sin**, you became **slaves of righteousness**.
(Romans 6:18)

In **Him (Jesus)** we have **redemption** through **His blood**,
the **forgiveness** of our **trespasses**,
according to the **riches** of **His grace** (Ephesians 1:7)

;..knowing that **you** were **not redeemed** with **perishable things**
like **silver** or **gold** from your futile way of life
inherited from your forefathers,

but with **precious blood**, as of a **lamb unblemished**
and **spotless, *the blood* of Messiah**. (I Peter 1:18-19)

For we know that the **whole creation *groans*** and ***suffers***
the **pains of childbirth** together until now.

And not only this, but also ***we ourselves***,
having the **first fruits** of the **Spirit**,
even ***we ourselves groan within ourselves***,
waiting eagerly for ***our adoption as sons***,
the **redemption** of **our body**. (Romans 8:22-23)