

Romans 7:14-25

Living under the Law

Paul's frustration

¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. ¹⁵ For that which 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 wish {to do}, I agree with the Law, {confessing} that it is good.

Paul's analysis

¹⁷ So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good {is} not. ¹⁹ For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. ²⁰ But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. ²¹ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes 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?

Paul's conclusion

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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.

Phil.3:12-14

"¹² Not that I have already obtained it, or have already become perfect, but I press on in order that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Rom.3:23

"For all **have sinned** {past}, and **come short** {present continuous} of the glory of God."

Rom.3:20

"by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh **be** {not "become"} justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin"

Gal.5:17-18

"¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desires 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.** ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law."

I Tim.1:15-16

"¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners, among whom I am** {not "was"} **foremost of all.** ¹⁶ And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."

Have you learned the lessons of Romans 7?

- 1. Do you have spiritual peace even without moral perfection?**
- 2. Do you live a life that is deeply thankful to God for His grace and eager to worship?**
- 3. Has the grace of God in Christ given you the security to be honest about our struggles?**
- 4. Do you press on in spite of failures?**
 - **Fighting the good fight of faith.**
 - **Forgetting what lies behind.**
 - **Reaching forward to your calling.**