

Romans 7b

14 Here Paul begins talking about mankind that is under the bondage to sin. Some would say this is about all men at all time and would point to 3:23. Others would describe this as a Christian who is trying to keep the Law and not living by grace. And still others would say this is Paul speaking about his unregenerate nature and would quote 6:18,22. IMHO This is Paul's old nature. The New Testament often uses present tense to involve the reader. Paul is not saying he is still a slave to sin for in the next chapter he declares his liberation. Romans 8:1-4 This is Paul the rabbi trying to live for God.

15 Some would say this is the daily life of man. They would say the walk without this struggle will only be achieved when we see Jesus. Others would say this poor babe in Christ who has not yet surrendered to the Lordship of Christ. They would say this person will come to a crisis point where they will be unable to go on without surrendering and experience a deeper cleansing. Still others would say he has yet to truly know Christ as his Savior because his nature is not changed. With those perspectives in mind let us read on.

16 I know what is right but my old nature can't live up to it. I keep erring in mind if not in action also. I recognize it is against the Law of God and so the Law is helping me see sin clearly. Even the unregenerate person knows theft, selfishness, and covetousness are wrong. That shows we agree that the Law is a good thing. John 8:9; Romans 2:15

17 The new man does not want to do the sinful acts. It is sin still living within him. Isn't he supposed to be washed clean? Isn't the old nature nailed to the cross? What is going on here? Is this an unwelcome guest over which we have no control? Or is Paul talking of the desire of the Old Nature to be a good religious person, and yet he is a slave to sin. He would not be a slave if he willingly did those things. He sees the Law say they are wrong yet he has no power to obey the law even if his mind agrees. I think this is the case rather than the redeemed person who needs to surrender. Just because I know the Law and want to be good does not mean I am redeemed. Sin is still master. Romans 6:13-14,16; 1 Corinthians 15:34

18 If the Christian world only believed this (nothing good lives in me=sinful nature sarx not soma) they would be dependant on Christ, his power, his direction. Why can this person not carry out the good that he desires to do? Is Paul saying he cannot do the godly desires in his heart, like witnessing, serving, loving his brothers? Philippians 4:13 Or is he arguing that just knowing the Law and even loving it, without the liberation from the slavery of the sinful nature is frustration because there is no power to live it? Romans 8:3

19 This is the only possibility for the unregenerate life, for it does not have the power of God. It is the very nature of the unregenerate. Again, some would say this is the Christian who needs to yield to grace, quit trying and let God. I wonder if Paul is trying to get through to some of the Jews that are trying to insist the Gentiles in

Rome need to keep the Law. Is he trying to speak to their conscience and tell them they need to surrender to the Savior and quit relying on the Law?

20 My mind says no, but this nature I'm infected with pushes me till I err. I regret my actions and yet I gave in to desire. The new nature gives us a new desire. In his mind he wants to obey the Law because he knows its right, but his sin nature is reigning. 5:21, 6:12

21 I want to be good. Few people desire to be evil. But as we try, we find the sin within us is ready to twist and pervert any attempt at what goodness even means. 6:12; Psalm 119:133; 2 Peter 2:19

22 My mind (inner being – see next verse) says this law is a good thing and is actually to help me. The Law has confused the issue so that the person is trying on his own to be right with God. The hardhearted Jew loved the Law, religiously!

23 This can't be the new man for he is a prisoner of the flesh. Pharisees wanted to be good. The average Joe wants to be a good person. The main argument you hear is "I'm a good person". Their intent is good, but they are still prisoners. If you could broadcast their thoughts and motivations, they would not make that claim. See verse 5; 1Peter 2:11

24 The voice of one in an agonizing situation. The word is used of a person almost worked to death. "Who" is masculine in Greek. Is the liberation death of the physical body, glorification? Is it 6:18,22? 7:4? Or is it the power of resurrected life? Galatians 2:20 The end of my own labor and the beginning of Christ's life in me?

25 Thanks for what? Is he saying thanks for making me a schizophrenic? Thanks for a life long struggle? Thanks for liberation from the body of death now or at the point of physical death? Thanks for liberation from the Law? The only thing that makes sense is, thanks for the power to overcome this struggle. This is his first mention of Jesus in the struggle. If He is Lord then He is Master. Thanks be to God -- THROUGH Jesus Christ our Lord! Through Him we have a new master that replaces the sin master. Remember there is no chapter break in the original and 8 is the follow up thoughts. The next chapter is about liberation, freedom to obey the Spirit. He goes on to talk about being controlled by a different nature in this life. The last part of the verse sums up the above condition, not the liberated condition we see in the next chapter. 6:17; 1 Corinthians 15:57

Questions for 8

How do we keep the righteous requirements of the Law?

What are the two mind sets of man?

What are the two controlling powers over man?

How do are mortal bodies receive Life?

What then, is our obligation?