

A Gospel Worldview – Lesson 7

The Great Debate

Romans 7:14-25

Is a Christian's struggle with sin the same as a non-Christian's struggle?

Why is it difficult to overcome sin in our lives?

Introduction – The law reveals our Sin, but we are no longer bound to the law. Paul says that the law of the Old Testament is a good thing, but it also reveals sin and sin can use the law to bring death.

The Different Theories of Paul's Struggle with Sin

- 1) Paul's Current Experience with Sin
 - Paul consistently used Present Tense Language
 - Paul uses phrases that only a Christian would use. (delight in God's Law)
- 2) Pre-Conversion Experience – Paul was describing his experience before coming to Christ.
 - a.) Phrases that reflect a Pre-Conversion experience
 - Sold as a slave to sin
 - Prisoner of the law of sin
 - Wretched man
 - Rescue him from this body of death.
 - b.) How could this be the abundant life described by Jesus.
 - c.) The Contrast with Chapter 8.
- 3) Paul was describing his life as a Jew under the law before faith in Christ. While Jews delighted in the law and attempting to sin, they struggled with sin.
- 4) Paul is describing an immature Christian.
 - The person is a believer
 - But, the person is not achieving victory over sin.
 - Therefore, Paul's message is not to stay in Ch. 7 but start living in Ch. 8.

Paul's description of a Christian in Chapters 6 and 8 does not agree with this description in Chapter 7 if he is talking about a Christian. That is why I tend to believe that Paul is talking about his life as a Jew before conversion.

The Answer is in verse 25!

- The answer to a pre-conversion experience with sin is Jesus Christ.
- The answer to your current struggle with sin as a Christian is Jesus Christ.
- Chapter 7 is not a stand alone passage that describes a Christians life. You have to read more...

Truths to Apply

1.) Your Identity as a Christian is not as a Sinner.

Do not live as if you are already defeated.

2.) Sin will continue to be a part of our lives and our world.

- Two regime theory. Old era and New era.
- As Christians we are justified and reconciled, but not yet glorified and resurrected.

3.) Do not use this Passage to justify your sins.

Conclusion: We are no longer slaves to sin, and we will continue to struggle with sin and commit sin. We are not powerless, instead we have access to the power to overcome through Christ.