

Why is the Battle Against Sin so Difficult? Romans 7:13 – 21 Part 1

- I. Is the “good” law (12) given by God (meant to bring about life v.10) actually a source of death (and thus it is actually “evil” or sinful?) (13)
- II. The Law—having come from the Spirit (“spiritual”) is meant to bring out the sharp contrast to our own character compared to God’s holiness (14 – 19)
- III. We are those who are to “walk in newness of life” but we are inwardly conflicted by a powerful influence to sin. (20 – 21)
- IV. Conclusions
 - A. First—we are no longer responsible to obey the OT law but it has value to show us we are utterly incapable of attaining righteousness on our own.
 - B. Second, verse 14 points this out more clearly—the Law is something which comes from God’s Holy Spirit—it is “spiritual”—and we are not.
 - C. Third, when we sin, we cannot blame anyone but ourselves
 - D. Fourth, although there is a powerful “principle” of sin at work in us (20 – 21), the fact that we “want to do good” shows that God is also at work in us also. Philippians 2:12-13 –“God is at work in you”

Why is the Battle Against Sin so Difficult? Romans 7:21 – 25 Part 2

- I. How else does Paul see this inner conflict? (21 – 23)
 - A. Our sin nature (“flesh”) is powerful (21a)
 - B. It is at work even when we desire to obey (21b)

C. What value is there in seeing God’s law as good & we are not?

D. Overall...

- II. For Paul and the rest of us as Christians, what value is there in discussing this inner conflict between wanting to do right but often doing wrong? (24 – 25)

A. Long for rescue! (see also 1 Cor 14:42 – 57)

B. Be grateful!

C. Remember—it’s a battle

D. Take all of v. 25 to heart!

- III. Conclusions—important questions to ask ourselves—questions of eternal life versus eternal death(and punishment in the Lake of Fire)

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