

## *The Christian's Ongoing Struggle with Sin* Romans 7:14-25

---

The Christian's struggle with the remnants of sin which are still in his members can cause great perplexity and discouragement, so the struggle must be understood clearly and biblically!

**Context – Ch. 7: Discussion of the law of God: Its purpose and its limitations**

- (1) The law is holy, but it cannot change the unregenerate heart
- (2) The Christian has been delivered from the law's dominion and its condemnation
- (3) The law is perfect and pure; it is "spiritual" (v. 14), but I am still a mixture!

### 1. The Present Struggle

(1) It is *ever present* – even for an apostle!

- Note repeated use of present tense throughout

(2) It is a *struggle indeed!*

- Note the constant tension conveyed in passage
- It is a "warring" that goes on in him!

(3) It is a struggle that is *absolutely grievous* to every true Christian

- He does not do what he "wants" to do (15)
- He does the very thing he "hates" (15b)
- He wants to do the good, but he doesn't then do it (19)
- The evil he does not want to do, that he keeps on doing!
- He cries out! (v. 24) "Wretched man that I am!  
Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

(4) It is a struggle that is *present because my body is still subject to sin and death*

- "I am of the flesh, sold under sin" (14)
- "nothing good dwells in me, that is in my flesh" (18)
- "when I want to do right, evil is close at hand" (21)
- "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (24)

### 2. The Resolution

(1) The Proper "Diagnosis": *"I'm not the man I was!"*

- I side with the law of God (14, 16)
- I hate the sin that I see in myself (15)
- I delight in the law of God in my inner being (22)
- These are indeed the "**remnants**" of sin that I struggle against (17, 18, 20, 23, 25)  
Sin's dominion has been broken!  
Sin can never again dominate me as it once did
- With my (renewed) mind, I myself serve the law of God (25)

(2) The Proper View of My Standing: **I have been delivered forever from the dominion of the law!**

- I am forever delivered from condemnation
- The righteous requirement of the law is being fulfilled in me –  
by virtue of my union with Christ, the perfect law-keeper;  
by virtue of His bearing all of the condemnation for my sin in my place  
by virtue of the power of the Spirit of Christ who now indwells my mortal body.

(3) A Proper "Forward Look"

- The Christian life is to be a life characterized by hope
- I am a man whose feet are firmly set on a path leading to glory
- This struggle is a clear indicator of this very truth

### Further Application

1. God in His wisdom has deemed that it best serves His glory that His children should yet struggle against sin.

- We learn the exceeding sinfulness of sin.
- We learn to hate sin all the more.
- We are humbled concerning ourselves.

2. Amidst the struggle we see the evidences of the work of the Spirit in us.