

## The Battle is Real 4

Romans 7:14-25 For we know that **the law** is spiritual, but I **am of the flesh**, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with **the law**, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>21</sup> So I find it **to be a law** that when I want to do right, **evil lies close at hand**. <sup>22</sup> For I **delight in the law of God**, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the **law of my mind** and making me captive **to the law of sin that dwells in my members**. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve **the law of God** with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the **law of sin**.

### ❖ Romans 8:1

- Ok: Now... Before we get into this text... I want you to see where it is taking us
- I think this will help you get a better understanding of where we are right now.
- **Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- **At the end of this personal look into Paul's own life...**
  - He wants us to come out on the other side to see this verse...
- **Ask Yourselves....** Why? How? How is chapter 7 laying the groundwork for Romans 8:1?

### ❖ Remember the Main Point of this Section of Scripture

- **Here is a man in a great battle within himself...**
- **Paul has been making an argument that...**
  - Being made right with God by faith... which is justification
  - And being in the process of growing in holiness... which is sanctification
  - Both require faith and a death to law keeping as a means of righteousness...
    - or as a means of keeping one's righteousness
- **But... this led to people assuming Paul meant the law is evil...**
  - **So... Paul is using these verses (14-25) to clear that up...**
  - The main point of these verses is:
    - Sin is evil... and our flesh is weak... not that the law is sin... bc it is not...
  - **The problem is not with the law... it is good... the problem is with the flesh... and sin**
    - the flesh is what is weak and sinful... and sin is deceptive
- **Paul is going to use himself as an example as to how this battle plays out.**

### ❖ Which Paul is it? (Must have Humility Here)

- **There is great debate back and forth as to if it is:**
  - **1 Paul before being a Christian... or 2 Paul after he becomes a Christian...**
- **3 Proofs that it is Paul as a Christian (Compelling Evidence) – there are so many more**
  - 1) He is Speaking in the Present Tense
  - 2) This Man loves the law of God
  - 3) This Man is acquainted with his sinful nature

### ❖ Outline:

- 1) There is a Divided Man
- 2) This Man Still Has Indwelling Sin
- 3) This Man Loves the Ways of God

- 4) There is a Battle Going on Within Him
- 5) He Sees and Laments His Fallenness
- 6) Jesus is His Only Hope

**To the Text: What do we learn from this text? This Man is Paul... but he also represents you and me... so you can think personally about each point.**

- ❖ **1) There is a Divided Man (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
  - **Let's look at how Paul describes this division within himself...**
  - <sup>14</sup> **For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.**
- ❖ **2) This Man Still Has Indwelling Sin (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
  - <sup>14</sup> **For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin.**
  - **The New American Commentary puts it like this:**
    - **“Even though the believer has a new nature acquired by a spiritual rebirth, the old nature continues to exert its maleficent influence.”**
  - **Paul is not failing to remember our new state...**
    - **Rather he says...I am of the flesh...**
      - ◆ **I still have that fleshly body...**
  - **Sin is Indwelling the Man...**
    - <sup>17</sup> **So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.**
      - **Sin is still alive within Paul... dwelling with him... at home in him...**
- ❖ **3) This Man Loves the Ways of God (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
  - **There are three things that point to Paul's love for God's Ways**
    - 1) He sees God's Law is Spiritual
    - 2) He says God's Law is Good
    - 3) He delights in the Law of God
- ❖ **4) There is a Battle Going on Within Him (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
  - <sup>21</sup> **So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.**
  - **There are two laws in view here.**
    - **1) The Law of Sin and 2) The Law of God**
  - **There is the law of gravity...**
  - **A- First** He said he found there was a law that anytime he wanted to do right
    - **Evil was close at hand**
  - **B- Then** He said... this law is waging a war against God's law in his mind...
  - **C- Now...** He defines it and gives us a point of its origin...
    - **He calls it the law of sin...**
    - **And He says this law of sin... it dwells within his members...**
- ❖ **5) He Sees and Laments His Fallenness (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
  - <sup>18</sup> **For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh.**
  - <sup>24</sup> **Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**
  - (Brevity)
  - **There are three negative traits associated with the Christian**

- Let's consider them in the first person... Because... Paul did...
    - 1) I Know Nothing Good Dwells in my Flesh
    - 2) I am a Wretched Man
    - 3) I Long for Deliverance from my Body of Death
  - **1) I Know Nothing Good Dwells in my Flesh**
    - Paul is reminded that in his flesh there is nothing good...
    - For his flesh is the source of his rebellion...
    - His flesh is where he is weak... It is here that sin takes advantage... to cause rebellion
    - His flesh is that part of him that is not yet made new, it is still in rebellion
  - **2) I am a Wretched Man**
    - He says along with Isaiah **“Woe is me!”**
    - Paul was able to see the depths of his sin...
    - He would also write of himself... that he is the **“chief of sinners”**
  - **3) I Long for Deliverance from my Body of Death**
    - **Romans 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**
    - Paul's indwelling sin really bothers him... He hates it...
    - He calls it his **“body of death”** And he longs for deliverance from it...
  - **The Christian Laments His Sin...**
    - **He is able to be sorrowful over sin... because**
      - 1) He sees it
      - 2) He sees it for what it is...
  - **Do You Think like this... ever? This is the mark of a mature Christian...**
  - **So, Paul struggles within... He longs for deliverance... And in the end... He has someone to turn to**
    - Paul has Hope... Not just blind Hope... But true Hope... Substantive Hope
- ❖ **6) Jesus is His Only Hope (this is important to you b/c you are pictured here)**
- **<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!**
  - **Thanks be to God**
    - He saw how wretched He was... But He was able to thank God...
    - **The story of Isaiah sets the stage for what was done for us...**
      - **Look at this Picture in Heaven of God's Salvation**
      - **Isaiah 6:4-7 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**
        - ◆ **Isaiah declared himself to be a curse... although a good man by earthly standards...**
          - He felt his integrity ripped apart...
          - He saw himself as a man with NO integrity...
        - ◆ **When He clearly saw God... He was able to clearly see himself**
        - ◆ **But... there was hope for Isaiah...**
          - An angel took a coal from the alter and placed it on his tongue...
          - This alter is the alter of Jesus Christ...
            - It is where we see the affect that the death of Jesus would have for sinners
              - **And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**

- **Paul's thanks were directed to the Father... and as we will see...**
  - Because of what He did through His Son Jesus Christ who is our Lord...
  - **But... I want you to make no mistake about it...**
    - ◆ This was not just Jesus getting in the way b/w us and God...
    - ◆ This is not Jesus running and stopping God from pouring out his wrath on us
  - **This is going to be the Father making the plan...**
  - **And the Son eagerly and joyously being a part of it...**
    - ◆ **Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief;**
    - ◆ **Acts 2:23<sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**
- **Notice: God the Father planned this... and God the Father carried it out...**
  - God the Father loved you so much... that He gave up His Son...
  - It wasn't Jesus pleading with the Father for the Father to take it out on Jesus...
  - They both were a part of this plan...
- **Paul thanks God the Father... Why?**
  - Remember his cry? Who will save me from this body of death?
  - Paul's deliverance is in mind... His salvation is in mind...
  - So... He thanks God the Father... but not merely the Father...
  - He continues....
- **Through Jesus Christ our Lord**
  - **Paul knows... Oh so well... that Jesus paid the price...**
    - Jesus accomplished Paul's Salvation...
    - Oh what an enemy Paul was to Jesus Christ...!
    - He hated Him... and fought against Jesus and His people...
    - Yet... it was for His enemies that Jesus died...
    - And Paul was one of His greatest enemies...
    - Paul was one that Jesus prayed for on that cross...
      - ◆ Saying... **"Father forgive them for they know not what they do"**
- **Why is Paul thanking God through Jesus Christ?**
  - Let's Look at what it is that Jesus has done for us:
    - What is it that Paul is so thankful about... here in his weakest moment?
    - Here in his moment of frustration over his own sin...
- **This Phrase "through Jesus Christ our Lord"**
  - Is in reference to what Jesus did as He died for our sins... being made to **suffer** on our behalf...
  - And before I dig deeper into it...
- **I want you to know that I thought long and hard on it...**
  - And I was unable to find a **category** in my brain to understand
  - **The depth of what Jesus must have went through on our behalf.**
    - There is no way to truly understand
    - How can we... who have never suffered so deeply... understand the depth of this suffering
  - **Never... has anyone ever suffered what Jesus suffered...**
    - You can take the sufferings of a million men and women and children
    - And they do not scratch the surface of the suffering of Jesus Christ...
- **What we can see and read are not enough to understand the depths to which Jesus went...**
  - The outward beatings and torture do not show us the whole story
  - So... let's do our best to see the torture going on behind the physical pain
- **Jesus was forsaken by the Father**

- **Matthew 27:45-46** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- **How can we ever understand what Jesus must have felt...**
  - God the Father forsook Jesus... he left Him... He turned His back on Jesus...
  - In the time of His greatest suffering... the Father was no where to be found
  - **Forsaken**
    - ◆ We likely have no idea what this is like...
      - The only example we might have would be when we felt alone...
      - Maybe for some moment in our life, we felt truly abandoned...
      - Maybe we felt truly alone... Maybe we were experiencing something horrible
      - And no one was there for us...
      - Maybe our friends and family had turned their back on us...
    - ◆ **Imagine someone wrongly accused you of a horrible crime (you fill in the blank)**
      - And there is a lot of evidence seeming to go against you...
      - It is such a hideous crime... that even your closest friends
      - Distance themselves from you... your mom will not speak to you
      - Your father won't look at you... your children speak of you in disdain
      - You are viewed as scum... and YOU. ARE. ALL. ALONE.
        - Let this sink in for a moment if you can.
- **Jesus the Son of God had never ever experienced any separation from the Father...**
  - No matter who said what about Jesus... He could always find communion with His Father
  - Not here though... not now as He hung on the cross
    - ◆ Here... He was forsaken...
- **Why was He forsaken by the Father?**
- **Jesus Became Sin**
  - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
    - Jesus was made to be sin... Jesus stood for sin...
    - He was pictured by God as sin...
- **Jesus was Cursed**
  - **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”
  - Jesus was cursed... meaning... under divine condemnation...
    - This is what it means to be cursed... it is not just a bad word someone says...
      - ◆ It is not just bad things that happen to a person...
  - Jesus came under divine condemnation...
- **Jesus Bore our Sin**
  - **1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
  - **Isaiah 53:4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
  - **Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;
  - The sins of man were placed upon Jesus Christ...
    - Every sin imaginable was placed on the back of Jesus as He hung on the cross
- **The People He Came to Save Rejected Him**
  - **Isaiah 53:3** He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
  - Although Jesus was there on the behalf of mankind...
    - They did not see it that way... they saw Him as something despicable...

- Something to be spit upon and mocked
- And to make it even worse...

➤ **God's Wrath was in a sense Poured out on Jesus**

- **Isaiah 53:6 and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**
- **Romans 3:25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood**
  - The word "propitiation" refers to a sacrifice that appeases God's wrath by satisfying His justice.
  - "To propitiate" is to satisfy and appease the wrath of God
    - ◆ on behalf of a guilty sinner who deserves punishment,
- **I say "in a sense"... because Jesus did take the wrath of God that you and I deserve...**
  - But there is **more** wrath... there is more **wrath** to be poured out...
  - Ill close with that at the end...

➤ **Jesus Agony Before the Cross Gives us a Glimpse**

- **Mark 14:33<sup>3</sup> And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.<sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."**
  - **He was so troubled before going to the cross... that He thought He could die**
    - ◆ He said His soul was sorrowful to the point of death...
    - ◆ He felt such agony as if He could die from the sorrow
    - ◆ **The only pain like this I could imagine on this earth...**
      - **Would be like watching your young child die in your arms...**
        - While it was your fault... but... I believe Jesus sorrow was greater
        - Because He was about to take thousands of sorrows like this... **Upon Himself**
  - **Luke 22:42-44<sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."<sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.<sup>44</sup> And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.**
    - Jesus... He knew what was coming... It was almost more than He could bear...
    - He was in such **agony** that he sweat huge drops of sweat... while He prayed...
    - I have never sweat when in prayer... I have slept, but never sweat...
    - His body was under such physical stress that He broke out in sweat...
    - It does not say He sweat drops of blood... but "like great drops of blood"
      - ◆ They are thick and heavy...

➤ **Consider All of this With Me...**

- **(I am not certain that this is what Jesus felt... this is my feeble attempt to try to understand)**
  - So... understand that I am using my imagination... but based off of what I read in scripture
- **Imagine if you would...** You feeling the weight of every sin imaginable...
  - Not imagining the sins... or being aware of such sins...
  - But imagine the **weight** of guilt of every sin...
- **Imagine as if you had done all of them... And you were responsible for all of them**
  - Imagine the deepness of guilt...
- **Imagine: Feeling the weight of being a murderer...**
  - someone who choked the life from an innocent child
  - of being a thief... who stole from the poor that they would be unable to eat
  - of being an abuser of small children... someone who harmed children for their own enjoyment
  - of being a liar... that lied in such a way that caused others to be punished
  - of being a blasphemer... someone who spoke ill of a loving God... who cursed God
  - Feel the weight of benefiting greatly from the suffering of others...

- Imagine a million more sins just like these... Imagine your own sin...
- Imagine the horrible things you have read about people...
- **Jesus felt the weight of all these sins... He became sin...**
  - God put on Him the iniquity of us all...

#### ❖ Who did Jesus do this for?

- Jesus went and saved His enemies
  - Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son
- **Paul thanks God through Jesus Christ... because as an enemy...**
  - Paul can now boldly proclaim Romans 8:1
  - Romans 8:1 There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- **There was a glimmer of Hope in Jesus' Agony...**
  - Isaiah 53:11 Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be **satisfied**; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.
  - This is why He could go... He knew what the outcome would be:
    - Hebrews 12:2 who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame
  - **Jesus Did this of His own accord**
    - "No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:18).
- **Paul is Thankful.... "thanks be to God... through our Lord Jesus Christ"**
  - Paul remembers the cross... He remembers his own sin... and He knows the forgiveness of Jesus

#### ❖ Invitation

- **Let's Consider one more Thing...**
  - Not everyone will benefit from what Jesus did...
  - Please do not misunderstand me...
  - The sins He bore... the wrath He took...
  - It is only **effective** for those who believe on Jesus...
- **There is more wrath to come... and Jesus will be the one pouring it out...**
  - Revelation 19:15 <sup>5</sup> From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
  - **Those who reject Jesus will say: Hide us:**
    - Revelation 6:15-17 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, <sup>17</sup> for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"
  - **Please hear me... Many of the verses I shared with you about Jesus suffering for us...**
    - Were written over 700 years before it happened...
  - **Here again... we see something written before it happens...**
    - The fate of sinful unbelievers everywhere is prophesied...
    - And this verse will come true with the same accuracy as the suffering of Jesus...
    - Only... then... there will be no time left for them
- **Have you fallen on the mercy of Jesus Christ?**
- **They looked throughout all of heaven... who is worthy?**
  - Revelation 5:9 <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,