

## Why Am I Like This?

Romans 7:15-25 <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.

### ❖ Intro

- Why this verse in Romans?
  - We sin.... And we struggle with that.
  - We live defeated at times because of our sins...
- One Preacher's confession of Doubt was the slowness of his sanctification
- These verses right here... may be the MOST practical verses in all of the Bible...

### ❖ A Very Deep Set of Verses

- So... even the most mature of Christian scholars spend years working on all the ins and outs of these verses
  - So there is a lot here... A lot that can be said...
  - But lets be practical today....
  - Lets keep it simple... I pray that I can...
  - You let me know when it is over if we accomplished that...
  - Or if I need to spend a little more time with you explaining it in a different way...
- These verses are TOO important for you... Not to understand them

**Important: To enter heaven you must be completely Righteous.... You need to know that... and understand that...**

### ❖ Romans

- **The point of Romans is to explain to the Reader**
  - That man is completely lost and gone their own way.
  - This sinfulness is something that is inherited and part of their nature
  - This causes the wrath of a Holy God to be upon them.
  - But... Paul the author shows how God is Able:
    - To take a completely lost and sinful person
    - And make that person right with God
  - He explains how Jesus is Righteous
    - And how through FAITH a person can be given the same righteousness of Jesus
  - The man that believes on Christ is given the Righteousness of Jesus
    - And therefore the man who is utterly sinful

- Is now viewed as being Righteous

➤ **Summary : That which is dirty is looked upon as clean because of Faith in Jesus**

- And this is something that is done initially and forever when the person believes
  - This does not run out

❖ **Point of Chapter 7**

- Paul is trying to support his teaching that
- The Law
  - The way Jewish people tried to live in such a way as to be right with God...
- The keeping of the law is impossible for anyone to do completely
- Paul is teaching here that the law has no power to declare us righteous before God
  - He is also saying that it is powerless to make us righteous before God...
- It does not justify us nor does it sanctify us before God
- So... lets look at what Paul is teaching...

❖ **Before We Get Started**

- Picture yourself in a boat in a river flowing forward
  - You are the boat
- This river is called Sanctification....
  - You are flowing toward being made Holy.... One step and one stumble at a time
  - You know that your steps are taking you in the right direction...
    - What you do not realize is that your stumbles are moving you in the right direction
  - On either side or bank of this river are two extremes that are not true
    - But sometimes people teach them
    - And sometimes people try to live by them
  - On the Right side of the river is Perfectionism
    - Not gonna happen in this life
  - On the Left side of the River is Complete Wordliness
    - I am saved, so let me just live however I want to live
  - Both of these extremes are UTTERLY Unbiblical

❖ **I don't Understand Myself**

- <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.
- Ever feel this way?

❖ **My Lawful Desires mean I Agree with God's Law**

- <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.
- If I do what I do not want....
- Paul is saying I want to do what God's law is telling me to do...
  - I just do not do this sometime
- Apply

## ❖ My Disobedience is Because of Indwelling Sin

- <sup>17</sup>So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

### ➤ Paul is not saying that He is not responsible for his own actions...

- He is simply saying that there is something in Him...
- He calls it sin that dwells within Him...
- This sin is causing him to do what He does not want to do

### ➤ Apply

## ❖ He Desires but is Unable

- <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.

### ➤ Nothing Good dwells in me.... That is, in my flesh

### ➤ Meaning of flesh – The old nature that we still have

- Galatians 5:17<sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- Not in reference here to the body...
  - We are able to use our body to do godly thing...
  - We are able to present our bodies as instruments of righteousness
  - The definition is important here...

### ➤ God is allowing us to live in with both natures...

- The flesh and the Spirit... And He has a reason for it

### ➤ I desire to do what is right

### ➤ But not the ability to carry it out

### ➤ Apply

## ❖ Paul's Continued Dilema

- <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.

### ➤ Paul says He is struggling to do the good he wants

### ➤ It is the evil He Does not want to do that He keeps on doing...

### ➤ Anyone ever feel this way?

### ➤ Apply

## ❖ Paul answers why this continues to happen to Him

- <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.

### ➤ It is the sin that dwells within Him

### ➤ He is not excusing Himself...

- He is just explaining the source of the problem...

### ➤ Apply

## ❖ Paul's Realization of What is Happening to Him

- <sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

- Evil is always close...
  - And He calls this a law...
  - Something that is always happening...

➤ Apply

#### ❖ Paul's true Desire

- <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,
- He Delights in the law of God...
- Do you understand this?
- Remember Psalm 1
- Apply

#### ❖ There is a War Going on Within Me

- <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.
- In My members
  - Within my life... my heart, my mind, my body
- Indwelling sin is waging a war against the law of His mind
  - The Law of My Mind is His Renewed Nature... His Spirit that is in opposition to what he calls the flesh
    - He is referring here.... Not just to the mind...
    - But the renewed Mind...
    - The Renewed Nature...
- Making Him captive to the law of sin that dwells within Him
  - This sin is holding him captive sometimes...
  - It is winning sometimes....
  - And you know what....
- HE HATES IT

#### ❖ He Hates it When Sin Wins

- <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- I am wretched... I hate my sin... I hate it when it wins
- I want to be delivered...
- From this body of death

#### ❖ Jesus is our Deliverer

- <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
- It is through Christ that we will have and are now having victory

#### ❖ Paul's Reality

- So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.
- Paul is saying.... I am not perfect....

- I am also not worldly
- I am serving God because He has renewed my mind and placed His spirit within me...
- But at times my flesh gets in the way... it causes me trouble...

#### ❖ **How Does this look Really**

- Paul is NOT saying that he continually lives in defeat
- And He is obviously not saying He lives in constant victory
- **He is explaining how He actually lives**
  - With a desire to be godly...
  - And to grow in His godliness...
  - But at times stumbling along the way...
- **And His stumbling is because of the sin that dwells within His flesh...**
  - He wants the reader to know... it is your old nature that causes you to do the things...
  - You do not want to do.

#### ❖ **We should be growing**

- We are told to destroy our indwelling sin....
- God Wants us in this battle...
- He wants us to fight...
- We should long for doing the things of God
- These verses should not cause us to say...
  - Well... that is a relief... I can just go on and live as sinful as I want...
  - That would mean you do not have that Renewed Spirit or Nature within You
- These verses Should help you realize your experience of stumbling is Normal among Believers...
  - It is gonna happen...
  - You do not want it to...
  - But you grow from those times...
  - And long for doing Rightly

#### ❖ **Invitation**

- You must be a believer
- Come and Ask God for His Help
- He Has Made You to be in the War...
  - That is his plan...
- He has also made you to depend on Him...
  - We must rely on Jesus for our help