

Sunday, June 17, 2007

THERE IS A STRUGGLE

Romans 7.7-25

Many people **seem** like everything is fine, but things are not always as they seem. We put on a facade at times, a front, especially when we are around other Christians. But, often that is not the real picture.

There is very often a deep struggle that is going on in our life. We understand the commandments of God; that we are to love him and love people. Placing our own lives beside his word and making the comparison of what we are, as opposed to what we ought to be, we see the disparity of the two and want to do something about it. So, we roll our sleeves up and try to change. And we find out that as hard as we work, we just simply cannot do it.

In the seventh chapter of Romans, Paul helps us to uncover the true human condition. Along with this discovery, he also provides for us a remedy for that situation.

What Shall We Say About The Law?

“What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, ‘Do not covet.’ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died. I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death.”

Romans 7.7-10

It Only Gets Worse.

“For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death. So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! But in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.

*We know that the law is spiritual; **but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.”***

Romans 7.11-14

Now, What Do I Do?

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.” Romans 7.15-23

Who Will Rescue Me?

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?” Romans 7.24

He Has Set Me Free!

“Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7.25

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