

The Continuing Struggle

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 7:7-25.

B. The gospel is all about freedom.

II. Ways to miss the freedom that is in Christ even though one is a Christian.

A. Antinomianism.

1. Sin will shame, limit, defile and spread death and corruption to you if you live this way. (Romans 6)

2. One cannot give way to sin without being enslaved to it.

B. Legalism--by trying one's best to fulfill the requirements the Law demands.

1. There is no need for living under the law for the believer is under grace.

2. One is no longer under the Law if he is resting in Christ.

3. Christ does not change the Law.

a. The Law cannot deliver one from sin.

b. It can always expose sin in someone and drive him to Christ.

III. How the Law exposes sin and kills the believer.

A. Paul is describing his experience before he became a Christian.

B. Paul simply means that there came a time when the Law was made known to him.

C. The Law arouses a desire to do what is wrong.

D. The Law is to expose the fact of evil sin within us.

1. Sin deceives us.

2. The Law shows sin up to be what it is--exceedingly powerful and dangerous.

IV. How the Law exposing sin and killing the believer feels.

A. Paul now addresses the believers in the present sense speaking of the power it now has over the Christian.

B. This pictures the Christian being deceived by sin and trying to please God according to the Law.

C. Paul wanted to do right but he could not do it, and what he hated he did.

1. The redeemed spirit does not want to do the evil.
2. However, there is an evil force at work against the believer.
3. Jesus taught to take drastic action against the evil.
4. The man is blessed who arrives at spiritual bankruptcy because this is the man God helps.
5. Our feelings must be answered by facts--we are no longer under the law.
6. This is a description of what the believer will go through again and again because sin deceives.

Application questions:

1. Explain the two wrong ways to approach the law.

2. What is the function of the law for the believer?

3. What does the speaker mean by “spiritual bankruptcy” and why is this key to the spiritual life? Explain.
