

Romans

(24) Paul, up close and personal

The deceitfulness of Sin...7:9-11

Summarize Paul's comments in verses 7-8.

Through the Law comes the knowledge of sin. It turns the light on the sin.

What does he mean in verse 8 that "*apart from the law sin is dead*"?

Any specific sin (vs.7) is dead (un-powered) until the specific law inflames it!

Paul now relates what spiritual truth about himself (before salvation)? vs.9

He was at one time alive, apart from law, but when law came, he died...

If we take the literal and consistent interpretation of "I was alive...", what's this refer to?

It must refer to his youth, before the age of accountability. In Adam but alive spiritually.

But when a specific commandment came to his spiritual awareness, what happened? vs.9-11

The sin dormant within him sprang to life, deceived him, and killed him spiritually.

What's suggested by the language about the definition of life and death in these verses?

It's all spiritual. Life is dynamic, related to God. Death is dormant, unrelated to God.

What other issue is tangentially addressed by this interpretation of 7:9?

Those who die before being spiritually aware of the commandment, babies, children, etc.

What is the irony of verse 10? What would the Jewish reaction be? vs.10

The (very) law that was (supposed) to bring Life, instead really brought Death!

How did this turn of events happen? vs.11

Sin, which was already there (in Adam), seized the opportunity, deceived and killed him!

He finishes here reminding us of what fundamental truth about the Law? vs.12; Ps.19:7-11

The Law is holy, the commandment is holy, righteous, and good. It's NOT the problem!

Deeper insight into the Law of God and Sin in us, 7:13-20

What challenge does Paul anticipate, and answer next? vs.13

Did the good (law) become (cause) death in me? NO, it is the SIN, not the law.

What deeper insight does he now give us about the law and himself? vs.14 See 6:14

The law is spiritual (vs. fleshly), but I am unspiritual (before salvation), mastered by sin.

How does he now describe the internal struggle in himself? vs.15

I don't understand. I don't do what I want to do. I do do what I don't want (hate) to do.

And what is his conclusion about this seeming paradox? vs.16

If I now (as a believer) do what I hate, I am fully agreeing that the Law is good (correct)!