

Romans

(25) Every believer's struggle

The law of sin in the members...7:21-23

How does Paul describe himself in verse 21?

Like two persons in one. He wants to do good, but finds evil right there with him.

And what term does he use in verse 22 to describe himself?

He uses the term "inner man" or "inner person", describing his redeemed spirit.

How do we know this "inner man" is redeemed? vs.22

Because he delights in God's law! The unredeemed are not so, 8:7, 3:10-18

But, this Godly, inner man, is at war! Who are the two combatants? vs.23

Law of sin working in the body members vs the law of his mind (the inner man).

Additionally, what happens to the inner man, some of the time. vs.23

He's made a prisoner of the law of sin at work in the body members.

Having described this battle, and the occasional defeats, what's his final cry? vs.24

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this *body* of death?

Why does he carefully say "body of death"?

Our body (flesh) is not yet redeemed. It's bound to die. But his 'inner man' is alive!

And what's his answer to his own question? vs.25

I will be rescued, thanks to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Redemption of the body.

What is Paul's summary of this whole teaching? vs.25

In my mind (inner man), I'm a slave to God's law. My flesh serves the law of sin.

Is Paul teaching that our flesh is evil? Are we not responsible for our sin?

NO! It's the SIN that's evil. This does not excuse our sin. It does, however, explain it.

Now the good news...8:1-4

What does the "therefore" in 8:1 link us with?

All of his teaching to this point, but more specifically chapter 7, with the inner man.

And what is the incredible truth declared in verse 1? vs.9

No condemnation for those *in* Christ Jesus! All true redeemed believers.

Paul immediately explains (again) *why* this is true. What's the *why*? vs.2 cp.6:14

Through Christ, the law of the Spirit of life set me free from (dominion) of the law of sin.

Why was God's law powerless to achieve this? vs.3

The law was weakened by our sinful flesh. In Adam, we're incapable of keeping the law.

So how did God overcome this barrier for us? vs.3

He sent Christ, in the likeness of sinful man, to be a (substitute) sin offering.

What was the result of this for us? vs.4

The righteous requirements of the law are met in us, living by the Spirit.