

(13) Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means!! It was SIN, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

(14) For we know that the Law is spiritual --- but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. For I do not understand my own actions.... For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate! Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with Law --- that it [i.e. the Law of God] is good.

(17) So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 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. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now, if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

(21) So, I find it to be a law: that when I *want* to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the Law of God --- in my inner being --- 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!

(24) Wretched man that I am!! Who will deliver me from this body of death...? 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.

Think on These Things

- 1) Do you think you can simply summarize today's lesson?

- 2) From v.13, does God's Law bring death to people? How prolific is sin among people?

- 3) When you become a Christian, what happens with your mind (see Rom 12:2; 2 Cor. 4:16; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9-10)? Does this happen to your body? How are we describing any difference?

4) What is the conclusion of v.21?

5) The application of this truth in self-discovery leads Paul to describe himself as what? Where does he see a solution to his self-loathing sinfulness?

6) The debate on this passage is not that Paul saw a battle with yielding to sin within himself. It is whether he is describing his life before or after becoming a Christian. Based on your own walk with the Lord, where would you weigh in on this debate, and why?

7) Can you share with the class what works for you personally when facing temptations to sin? How do you earn victories over sin?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: