

What's Your Problem?

Romans 7:14-25

Introduction

I The Investigation of The Problem

- A. Paul describes the law as _____ - Rom 7:12; Heb 4:12
- B. Paul describes himself as _____ - 1 Cor 1:1-3
 - 1. Sold as a slave to sin - Jn 8:34
 - 2. Enigmatic
 - a. He didn't understand his own _____
 - b. He didn't do what we wanted to do - Gal 5:17-18
 - c. He did the very things he _____ - Prov 8:13; Rom 12:9

II The Interrogations of The Potential Suspects

- A. The law is _____ in that it fulfilled its purpose
 - 1. It made Paul _____ of sin - Rom 3:20
 - 2. It made Paul accountable to God - Rom 3:19
- B. The inner man is _____ in that it's been made new by faith
 - 1. Paul concluded that his continued struggle with sin was:
 - a. Not the result of his new inner man - Rom 2:28-29
 - b. But the result of _____ living in him - Gal 2:20
- C. The sinful flesh is the _____
 - 1. _____ good lived in Paul's sinful flesh
 - 2. He couldn't do the good he wanted to do - Phil 3:12-14
 - 3. The evil he wanted to _____ he kept on doing - Ps 19:13
 - 4. Again, Paul concluded that his struggle with sin was:
 - a. Not the result of his new inner man
 - b. But the result of sin living in him - Psalm 40:12

III The Verdict

- A. Paul's description of the "law" that was at work
 - 1. When he wanted to do good, evil was right there - Gen 4:7
 - 2. His inner being _____ in God's law - Ps 119:47, 97
 - a. But he saw another law at work in his physical body
 - 1. Waging _____ against the law of his mind - Gal 5:17
 - 2. Making him a _____ of the law of sin - Rom 6:6-7, 12-14

- B. Paul's cry for _____
 - 1. "What a wretched man that I am!" - Is 6:5
 - 2. "Who will rescue me from this body of death?" - Rom 8:23; 2 Cor 1:8-9; 2 Cor 5:4
- C. Paul's exuberant answer
 - 1. "Thanks be to _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord!" - Ps 107:15-16; Zech 4:6; 1 Cor 15:51-58; Phil 3:21
- D. Paul's conclusion
 - 1. In his _____ he was a slave to God's law
 - 2. In his sinful _____ he was a slave to the law of sin

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. In what ways is your "spirit willing" but your "flesh weak"? Exercise? Dieting? Spiritual disciplines? Finishing projects around the house? Being a better spouse or parent?
2. In light of your own struggles with sin, what impact does it have on you to read of Paul's inner conflict? How does it help you?
3. What is the paradox that Paul describes in this passage? [Hint: Read Galatians 5:17] Which force does he find stronger in his life? Which do you find stronger in yours?
4. What are some "popular" explanations for the fact that believers still struggle with sin? What is Paul's explanation?
5. What events can you look back on in your past and recognize as God's "gift" to bring you to the end of your own self-effort in becoming like Jesus? What events are happening now that He may be orchestrating for that same purpose? How are you responding? How should you respond? [Read 2 Cor 1:8-9]
6. Take a moment to thank God the events and circumstances of your life and for His promise to complete the work He has begun in you.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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