

The Victory

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Romans 7:21-25

Romans 7:21–25, *So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 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? 25 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.*

I. The Present Battle (7:21)

- A. The Burning Desire.
 - 1. This desire is a result of the new nature. (Transformation (Matt 18:5?))
 - 2. It is...
 - a) Craving righteousness.
 - b) Yearning for holiness.
 - c) Seeking favor & approval.
- B. The Present Condition.
 - 1. “Close at hand” – to be readily available for use or service.
 - 2. The reality of moral failure is closer to each of us than we care to admit.
 - a) God warned Cain about the presence of evil. **Genesis 4:7**, *If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.*”

II. The Transformed Nature (7:22-23a)

- A. New appetites (7:22) (**Matthew 5:6**, *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*)
 - 1. **Psalm 119:14**, *In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.*
 - 2. **Psalm 119:47**, *For I find my delight in your commandments, which I love.*
 - 3. **Psalm 119:77**, *Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.*
 - 4. **Psalm 119:105**, *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*
 - 5. **Psalm 119:140**, *Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.*
 - 6. **Psalm 1:1–2**, *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; 2 but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*
- B. New Opposition (7:23a)
 - 1. The promise (2 Cor 4:16 & Eph 3:16)
 - 2. The Mind- The battleground for holiness is won and lost in our mind.
 - a) When we “lose”
 - (1) Become captive “prisoners” to the law of sin that dwells in our unredeemed “flesh” or humanity.
 - b) When we “win”
 - (1) The ultimate victory is a glorified body. (**Romans 8:23**, *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*)

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- (2) Until that day of victory, we must present ourselves to God. (**Romans 12:1–2**, *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*)

III. The Sometimes Prisoner (7:23b)

- A. The source of sin is no longer the inner man (Eph 4:22; Rom 8:10)
- B. We will face temptation while we remain in our mortal, corruptible bodies.
- C. A Christian cannot avoid living in the flesh; however, we can and should avoid walking according to the flesh in its sinful ways.
 - 1. **2 Corinthians 10:3–4**, *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.*

IV. The Frustrated Believer (7:24-25)

- A. Acknowledges wretchedness (7:24)
 - 1. Robert Haldane, a Scottish commentator, observed that men perceive themselves as sinners in direct proportion as they have previously discovered the holiness of God and His law.
 - a) Psalm 38:1-4
 - b) Psalm 130:1-5
- B. Acknowledges the need for deliverance (7:24b)
 - 1. “*Deliver Me*” – Rescue from danger; carrying a wounded comrade to safety.
 - 2. In Tarsus, where Paul was born, the penalty of murder was reported to be tightly bound to the body of the victim, and the dead corpse would remain on the murderer until their death from infection. Perhaps Paul had in mind such torture when he expressed the yearning to be delivered from this body of death.
- C. Acknowledges his deliverance (7:25)
 - 1. Thanksgiving (**1 Corinthians 15:52–53**, *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:56–57*, *The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - 2. Summation of the problem (**Romans 7:25**, *...So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.*)

Romans 8:1–4, *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*