



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 7:15-25
- I Corinthians 2:11-12
- Ephesians 1:19-20; 4:29
- II Corinthians 5:17

SHARDS OF HISTORY

- Diary of a Metamorphosis
- Two Spirits
- Two Laws
- One Solution One Resolution

SEED:

"For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. **Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**" Romans 7:19-20 NKJV

FRUIT:

"O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?** I thank God—through **Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, **with the mind I myself serve the law of God,** but **with the flesh the law of sin.**" Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

Last week in [The Operating System of Creation](#) (Romans 7:1-14)...

Don't you know? Here we are with the words Paul has chosen to follow his deep revelation about how the redemption story of Christ is indeed a Passover story. We went from captivity, into the wilderness, and then into the promised land. Christ died and we died with Him; Christ was buried and we were buried with Him; Christ resurrected and we are raised with Him as new creatures. In the Torah we see this precise pattern in the Feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread and Firstfruits. And that is the point here in chapter seven. Don't you know that I am addressing those who know the law and can recognize the patterns? Only those who understand God's law and how it is literally meant to guide you and instruct you in your everyday lifestyle and decisions can comprehend what Paul is about to say. And in this instance it is literally a matter of life and death; "Don't you know that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?"

We must pause to address what this means or the rest of this narrative will be twisted. Even Peter understood that Paul introduced difficult topics that were hard to understand. Peter exposed how untaught and unstable people would twist Paul's words to their own destruction, as mankind so commonly does with

the Scriptures. That is why understanding that “the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives” requires the perspective of someone who actually knows the law, otherwise Paul would not have emphasized the critical nature of having such knowledge prior to introducing this subject. Nevertheless, for the better part of nearly 2000 years, since these words were scribed, his thoughts have been misconstrued, misinterpreted, and misappropriated by those who don’t know the law. Here in the first six verses of Romans seven, the law to which Paul refers is NOT the entirety of the Torah, as if there comes a time when we are no longer bound to it; instead, it addresses the specific law of marriage that has a binding effect “until death do us part!”

Now that we have the proper context, and recognize Paul is referring here to a specific law, we can learn exactly what he is revealing, and more so why this revelation follows immediately after the truth bomb he dropped in chapter six. And maybe this is a good time to remind you that this is a letter, not a book with chapters. Chapters and verses, and even random headings, were added later as reference points. Reading the original, you would have seamlessly flowed from the revelation in chapter six to these words at the start of chapter seven, which would then naturally remain in context. It takes a death to be released from the bond of marriage. And is that not precisely what we previously discovered

—Christ died and we died with Him? The take-away here is that we have, by law, been released from our previous marriage. We were bound by the specific law of marriage as long as we or our spouse remains alive. But once there is a death, the very law of marriage that bound us together also provides a release clause. And do not overlook that this is not only a reference to a specific law, but that specific law has a condition. It is applicable only to married people.

If you ignore the law and leave your spouse to marry someone else, you will be committing adultery. But if your spouse dies you are free, under that specific law, to legally remarry. Again, with the two-thousand-year-old blinders lifted, it should be easy to discern that Paul is being granular here; he says, “She is free from THAT law!” He is in no way revealing some mechanism by which we can be freed from all of God’s laws!

But why is he being so granular here, and why now? Think about it. Paul just shared the deep revelation he had about his own life, how he died with Christ and resurrected as a new man, and how every Christian must see themselves the same way in Christ. And now he is revealing how all along, the Torah had deep within it, a specific law that makes our future marriage to Christ legal! If He dies, or you die in Christ, and we know both occurred, then according to the law you are legally permitted to remarry. Ironically, the very law that modern-day Christianity wants to abolish, set

aside as legalism, and designate to the antique pile, contains within it the statute that permits the church to be the bride of Christ. And by the way, it also contains the statute that permits the blood of Christ to save you. If you abolish the law; your status as the bride of Christ and your means to eternal life is abolished with it!

Now, move past thinking just in the natural and focus your prophetic antenna on the spiritual. In other words, it certainly applies to your very life here on earth, but don't just imagine your marital status as a human when you consider this law. From a spiritual perspective answer two questions. Could you have been single when you met Christ? And, does this law, which is applicable only to those who are previously married, even apply to you? With absolute certainty the answers are: you were definitely married and the law does apply. This then begs a further question: to whom were we already married?

You were not single. You were held by or married to sin and Satan. The law was codified to expose the sinful human nature. Prior to Christ, we were all living within the bond of marriage to sinful passions, and the progeny of that intimate relationship was death. Now, as you receive Paul's words in context, it should be clear. According to the law, death has released you from what was holding you in covenant to your previous marriage. Is that not exactly what Paul revealed in the previous chapter? "You were

bound in marriage to sin, but now you have been set free from that bond.” And because of that release, there is a very specific statute within the Torah that reveals the circumstance that grants permission for you to remarry. The letter of the law bound you for life to sin and Satan as your spouse, but then death released you when you resurrected as a new creature with a new Spirit in you. And that new person is free to marry again.

As Paul so often does in Romans, after he drops a prophetic truth bomb, he takes pause to make sure everyone reading can catch up. He knows that what he is revealing is complicated and will be difficult to digest for most people—especially for those who don’t know anything about the Torah. It’s hard enough for scholars; even Paul took years to sort through the relationship of Christ to the law. And Christ Himself taught us that even the Scribes had to be instructed in things concerning the kingdom.

For all those who somehow determined that the passage above should be interpreted in a way that makes the totality of the Torah obsolete for Christians, as if it would even be sinful to consider such of any value, you’d be dreadfully wrong. Remember, the law was codified so that all of humanity would be without excuse! No longer could there be plausible deniability. “I did not know,” is unacceptable, and the modern euphemism agrees; “Ignorance of the law is no excuse.” Earlier in Romans Paul wrote it like this, “For

as many as have sinned without law will perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

And might we reemphasize what should be obvious by now to those who believe. Sure, the pagan world is happy to define their own ethics, but let that not be true of God’s people. God is the one who defines sin, not the prevailing social mores. If you remove that which defines sin, you invalidate the very fabric of the universe—the operating system of creation. God said, “Let there be, and there was!” David remembers how the word of God, in the law of God, spoke creation into existence. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.” Remove the words and the universe collapses into nothing.

Think of the Torah as the operating system of the universe and the everyday function of laws as the applications. Follow Y’shua as He ministers to the people and raises up His disciples and what you will notice is that His entire ministry demonstrated the proper application of the law. He did not abolish it; He applied it with correct spiritual inspiration and discernment. Just imagine His words to the woman accused of adultery. He wrote the names of those who thought to accuse her in the earth, as He exposed their hidden sins and they dropped their stones one-by-one and disbanded. “Where are your accusers?” The law requires at least

two witnesses. "Where is the man?" The law requires both parties to be present? The operating system was the law; Y'shua established His ruling by running His application on that operating system and the outcome was, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more!"

Even the applications on the very devices you depend on every day function only because beneath the surface is an operating system. You cannot load the apps and then remove the operating system and expect the device to function at all! In other words, sin could not be judged and mitigated using the correct application if there was no law on which to operate.

It's all a matter of seeing things with the proper perspective. Once it is clear that you are infected with sin, as all humans are, the proper treatment also becomes more evident. Think of sin as a living creature that is skulking around in search of a host in which to inject its venom. In fact, sin has a desire to rule you and your job is to rule it! From a certain vantage point, the law nurtures the fertile soil in which sin grows and spreads. If there was no law to expose your sin nature, then sin would just die for lack of nourishment. But there is also a very deceptive side of this equation, the side which leaves a person unaware of the festering infection in their bones. They think they are living life without any hinderance to what they see as good, only to one day recognize

that their version of good is just pure evil. The law is the tool God uses to expose this infection. Once the law becomes known, it reveals that death has already spread throughout your body. That is the life-giving purpose of the law. Sure it seems to be quite the opposite at first because it initially exposes the infection. But later, if you are humble enough to open your eyes, you will admit it actually illuminated the path to recovery—life from death. Sin does its best works as a covert insidious enemy. It would prefer to stay hidden for as long as possible, so that once a diagnosis is made, it's too late—death is imminent. But the greatest news of all is that as long as you still have one breath in your lungs, it's not too late.

When you see the law for what it was truly meant for, as the operating system of creation, the means to show you the way of death and the way of life, it will alter your perspective. Now the law is not something to dread, but something that will help you understand God's holiness and His plan for you to join Him as His purely sanctified children.

You see, the law which delivers a verdict of death also provides within its statutes an offer for life and that's what makes it so good. Surely, if your heart is hardened you will judge what God intended for good as if it is evil, what God intended to bring life as if it could only produce death. That's precisely what the enemy of your soul hopes you will conclude. It is so subtle, and the inflection point can

seem almost imperceptible. It's as if you are hanging by a thread over a bottomless cavern and the solution to your survival is to let go. You can keep hanging on hoping that the fraying fibers won't break, but they will. And that's the deception. You can't save yourself. It won't be until you recognize why you are hanging there, and then become willing to admit your faults, that you are infected with sin, that the answer will appear. The fabric of God's creation exposed you, and that is a good thing, a holy thing, a spiritual thing, and the diagnosis is terminal. Say it out loud if necessary; "I am infected with a disease and it's killing me and I need someone to save me." And then let go and you will fall right into the arms of a loving God.

This week in Romans 7:15-25... How can we begin to understand what Paul wishes to convey if we move off the target even one degree? Everything that landed us in this spot must be dragged forward. Paul has already discovered and declared maybe the deepest revelation imaginable. "I died, was buried with, and resurrected as a new creature in Christ. I am no longer a slave to sin, but have become a slave to righteousness. This death released me from my marriage bond to sin and Satan, and I am free to become the Bride of Christ." And this too must be the testimony of every Christian. It is so empowering.

But why would Paul then insert the diary of his struggle, his personal resistance to the outcome of that very revelation, here in the second half of Romans seven? Why is it paramount that you understand the nature of this section, that it is a diary entry? And why is it important for you to understand that it relates to your own personal journey? It's so you don't get confused as if Paul was experiencing these struggles at the time he recorded these words. All that he concluded as a result of his many years of wrestling to understand the transaction that occurs when one becomes a Christian, revelation recorded in the previous chapter and a half, had not been finalized, only to yield a guy buried in constant turmoil to make the right choices. That would not be all that empowering; don't you agree? In other words, this diary entry midway through chapter seven is not permission to indulge your wrong choices, as if you'd be keeping good company with Paul. As if to say, "If Paul constantly struggled as a Christian, then it's fine for me as well!"

Rather, Paul is giving an account of struggles on his journey from the time of his conversion onward, as he fought to understand the fullness of his transformation. "I really can't comprehend the bad choices I've made along the way. Why did I neglect what I knew to do and why did I participate, at times, in activities and thoughts which I had grown to despise?" He knew that his

weakness actually affirmed the goodness of God's commands, as they were meant to expose any remnant of sin that remained. He also reveals the final resolution that he concluded as a result of his journey. What you must decide is if you would rather join him in his turmoil or adopt the solution. Don't mistake what is being said here; walking away from every sinful passion takes total focus and commitment for each one of us, and that is possible only by constant access to God's grace, as we practice our faith. Knowing the solution and walking it out in every area of our lives are two very different things. Yet, don't be deceived, regardless of how difficult it may be at times, we are absolutely called to walk it out, just as Jesus demonstrated!

There has to be a viable explanation for how and why it is possible for someone to have died to sin, been freed from the bondage of Satan, and then united with righteousness, to still struggle by making the wrong choices. The answer lies in understanding what occurred at your born-again moment. And maybe equally important, what did not occur. The moment you surrendered your life to Christ you were given access to the Spirit of God and to His grace. But what didn't happen is a complete disconnect from your access to the spirit of man, with which you were born. It still has the power to animate your flesh, should you choose. And that is the rub; you have to make a choice!

And equally as critical is the understanding of your new identity. Sure you maintain access to your old flesh nature, and nothing good can come of that. But also you must recognize that your old nature is no longer who you are. And when you practice evil contrary the will of your new identity, it is literally not you who performs the dirty deed, but the sin that still dwells in your flesh. The new you is not a sinner, but a saint!

You may not like it and you may wish God had simply removed any access to the old you, but that would contradict the nature of God. God is love and love is a choice. Contrary to your abilities prior to coming to God when you had only one option—sin leading to death, now you have the choice to no longer sin. And by having a choice we prove our love for God. Volunteer to surrender the option to sin and dive into the whole new world of freedom. True freedom is when you surrender all options except the godly one. That is the freedom for which Christ set you free. “I will no longer sin because God’s way is the only choice for me! Sure sin dwells in me, but that is no longer who I am—I am not the sinner!”

It might be valuable to offer another important perspective on these two spirits to which you have access. In your born-again state you were given access to the power of God that raised Christ from the grave. You were also permitted to use that power for good or evil, again so you might demonstrate your authentic love for God.

The primary mechanism by which this liberty fuels the wrong choices is when you use God's power to resurrect your old nature from the dead, that which had previously died to sin. Don't be so surprised; you are given resurrection power, but you are not restricted on how you will use it. Rather than resurrect your old man, use God's grace to flee from sin and impart life to those around you.

As a born-again Christian, two spirits dwell within you and each animates its own set of rules. One will animate the evil that remains in you and that sinful nature will enjoy every ounce of debauchery. Let's call this the law of sin. Then there is the one which desires to be righteous; the born-again inner man that delights in God's laws. This spirit is aligned with the mind of Christ. As you can see, these two spirits align with two different sets of laws. One spirit is married to the law of God and the other is in a constant battle with it, and remains in bondage to the law of sin and death.

When you recognize how wretched is the old nature in you that loves sin, you will appreciate all the more that you are no longer that person. The resolution already took place that freed the old man from imminent death. The only thing that remains is for you to distinguish the true you that now lives to obey God's commands from the old you that was resolute to satisfy your sinful

passions. Maybe the most important detail to acknowledge is that your deliverance has already occurred. “Who will deliver me from the constant battle to do what is right? Praise God, Y’shua already did.” Now it is up to you to decide to whom you will obey, your old nature and sinful passions which leads to death, or radical obedience to the law of God leading to a life of righteousness.

“Think in Bible.” DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

This is the diary of a man in the process of discovering what it means to be born-again and empowered by the Holy Spirit. To twenty-first century Christians, these struggles appear almost commonplace. We saw the Reformation over five-hundred years ago; we can recall countless Holy Spirit revivals throughout history; we’ve experienced many types of movements in Christianity: Prayer, Charismatic, Prophetic, Pentecostal, Messianic, and Hebrew Roots, to name a few; and we have study bibles, bible programs and apps; a myriad of Christian books, curriculums, and study guides; Christian television, radio, magazines, music, and the internet; and we have churches on every corner, over three-hundred thousand of them in the United States alone. You get the picture?

However, Paul is the first man alive to sort through and commit to words what took place in us when the great transaction occurred, ideas and words that have become part of the common vernacular for those whose lives Christ exchanged for His own. Let's examine Paul's struggle to discover just what happened to each of us when we got knocked off our feet in the great exchange.

The last part of Romans seven is like taking a peek into the diary of a man on a long journey. Think carefully about your own life and history, contemplate any important event, and then consider if you were called to write about it. The words could hardly compare to the details of the actual story. Words can't do justice to the seconds, minutes, and hours of reality. Sure we can overview life in snapshots, key moments and highlights, shards of history, but the minute details of reality can never be chronicled sufficiently, for any historical event, even one in your own life.

Consider a soldier at war, for instance. There are key battles, strategic moments, memorial dates, and history-deciding losses and victories. And in that one soldier's life, in his mind, he endured the expanded nano-seconds of time—an ongoing personal reality, but hidden from recorded history: the fears, the suffering, the cold, the pain, the doubt, the hope, the confusion, and the terrible longing for his loved ones. He experienced every continuous moment,

reality that history never recorded. And this is but one soldier. Can you feel it?

Now, take a look back at Paul's struggle, his dilemma. You are reading an encapsulation. He is opening his diary and allowing us to see, and possibly feel, the highlights of his journey of discovery; "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" Yes, it all comes down to this journal entry; "Thank you Father, your Son has already delivered me from this struggle. I get it now, my old flesh serves the law of sin; but, the new man, born-again in Christ, serves the laws of my God."

And then the great question for all of us. Do we join Paul in his struggle, or do we join him in his discovery, his victory? You have his diary entries to draw from; why repeat his mistakes? Choose now to agree with the law of sin that has you doing things you know you shouldn't and neglecting things you know you should, or live as the new creature and serve the laws of God who sent His Son to die for you that you might be born-again and filled with His grace.

DIARY OF A METAMORPHOSIS

1. Identity Transfiguration

A. A Complete Transformation...

(1) Once a carnal man, but now I am a new creation.

(a) The Romans Road of Transformation!

1. "Therefore **we were buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**" Romans 6:4 NKJV
2. "knowing this, that our **old man was crucified with Him**, that the **body of sin might be done away with**, that we should **no longer be slaves of sin.**" Romans 6:6 NKJV
3. "Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be **dead indeed to sin**, but **alive to God** in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:11 NKJV
4. "And having been **set free from sin**, you became **slaves of righteousness.**" Romans 6:18 NKJV
5. "But now having been **set free from sin**, and having become **slaves of God**, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life." Romans 6:22 NKJV
6. "But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having **died to what we were held by**, so that we should **serve in the newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter." Romans 7:6 NKJV

7. "For we know that **the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.**" Romans 7:14 NKJV
8. "So then, **with the mind** I myself **serve the law of God** [One Resolution], but **with the flesh the law of sin.**" Romans 7:25 NKJV
9. "But **you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And **if Christ is in you, the body is dead** because of sin, but **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness." Romans 8:9-10 NKJV
10. "And **do not be conformed** to this world, **but be transformed** by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2 NKJV
11. Transfiguration / Metamorphosis
 - a) [Transfiguration] A complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.
 - b) [Metamorphosis] A change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one by natural or supernatural means
12. Do not conform to the world but be transformed!
Declare...

- a) I died, was buried, and resurrected with Christ, so I walk in newness of life.
- b) My old man was crucified with Him; sin is done away with; I am no longer a slave of sin.
- c) I am dead to sin and alive to God.
- d) I am set free from sin and have become a slave of righteousness.
- e) I am set free from sin and now am a slave of God.
- f) I died with Christ and was delivered from the law that held me bound to Satan. Now I serve in the newness of the Spirit.
- g) God's law is spiritual; the old me is carnal.
- h) With a new mind I serve the law of God; with the old flesh I serve the law of sin.
- i) However, I am not in the old flesh but in the Spirit (Christ is in me); the old body is dead (that is no longer me!); the new Spirit is alive (that is who I am now!)
- j) I no longer conform to this world, I am transformed with a renewed mind—the mind of Christ.

(b) The Mind of Christ

1. "Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God." I Corinthians 2:12 NKJV
2. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor [Isaiah 40:13]?"**" Romans 11:33-34 NKJV
3. "For **"who has known the mind of the Lord** that he may instruct Him?" But **we have the mind of Christ.**" I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV
4. "For the **weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God** for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ**, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV
5. We have access to the mind of Christ!

- a) When you were born again, you were no longer only animated by the spirit of man with which you were born; now you also have access to the Spirit of God.
- b) Sure the mind of God is unsearchable and beyond understanding in your former state (when you had access to only the spirit of man).
- c) But now, with the Spirit of God in you, you have access to the mind of Christ. You can think like God!
- d) The mind of Christ is now the weapon you should use to fight every battle. To do so you must bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Then and only then can you judge the disobedience in your midst.

B. The Journey to the Mind of Christ

(1) Paul's transformation began with...

(a) A light, a voice, and two questions!

1. "As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly **a light shone** around him from heaven. Then he **fell to the ground**, and **heard a voice** saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "**Who are You, Lord?**" Then the Lord

said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, **"Lord, what do You want me to do?"** Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."" Acts 9:3-6 NKJV

2. A light shone; a voice spoke and Paul asked two questions...
 - a) "Who are You, Lord?" "I am Jesus!"
 - b) "Lord, what do You want me to do?" "Go!" And Paul went!
3. Paul would have recognized this encounter as the one Moses had in the wilderness!
 - a) A fire (flash of light)! Curiosity and willingness to go!.
 - 1) *"And the Angel of **the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush.** So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, **"I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn."***
Exodus 3:2-3 NKJV

2) *"So when the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" **And he said, "Here I am."***" Exodus 3:4 NKJV

b) "Who are you?" "What do You want me to do?"

1) *"Moreover He said, "**I am** the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God."* Exodus 3:6 NKJV

2) *"Come now, therefore, and **I will send you** to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."* Exodus 3:10 NKJV

3) *"Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, '**What is His name?**' what shall I say to them?" And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "*" Exodus 3:13-14 NKJV

(2) It took Paul 14 years of preparation.

- (a) He was sorting out the very message we are seeing here in Romans.
 - 1. **"Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem** with Barnabas, and also took Titus with me." Galatians 2:1 NKJV
- (3) Paul endured horrific persecution and suffering.
 - (a) It culminated with this revelation!
 - 1. "Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.**" Acts 14:19 NKJV
 - 2. "strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, **"We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."**" Acts 14:22 NKJV
- (4) The radical transformation that took place in Paul yielded this understanding!
 - (a) We too must come to this understanding!
 - 1. "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own? For you were bought at a price;** therefore glorify God in your body

and in your spirit, which are God's." I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

2. "I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20 NKJV

3. You no longer belong to yourself.

- a) The old you was purchased with the blood of Christ.
- b) He died, was buried, and resurrected. You died, were buried, and resurrected with Him.
- c) The person standing there that looks like the old you in the mirror, the one you can touch, is NO LONGER the old version of you.
- d) It is now possessed and animated by Christ!

- (b) You are a NEW CREATION

1. Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV
2. "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, **but a new creation**." Galatians 6:15 NKJV

3. "But you have not so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you **put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and **be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God**, in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:20-24 NKJV
4. "Do not lie to one another, since **you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed** in knowledge according to the **image of Him who created him**," Colossians 3:9-10 NKJV
5. Can it be any more obvious?
 - a) If you have Christ in you, you are a new man!
 - b) Gone are all your old ways of thinking and acting.
 - 1) *"For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in **doing the will of the Gentiles**—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries."* 1 Peter 4:3 NKJV
 - c) Your new being has been totally revamped into the image of the one who created you!

TWO SPIRITS

2. The Diary of an Inner Struggle

A. The inner struggle validates the goodness of God's commands...

(1) A Contiguous Message

(a) The Law is good; I'm the one with the problem.

1. "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but **what I hate, that I do**. If, then, I do what I will not to do, **I agree with the law that it is good.**" Romans 7:15-16 NKJV

2. How can we begin to understand what Paul wishes to convey if we move off the target even one degree?

a) Everything that landed us in this spot must be dragged forward.

1) "*Therefore **the law is holy**, and the commandment holy and **just and good.***"
Romans 7:12 NKJV

2) "***The law is spiritual**, but **I am carnal**, sold under sin.*" Romans 7:14 NKJV

b) Paul has already discovered and declared this deepest revelation.

1) "I died, was buried with, and resurrected as a new creature in Christ. I am no longer a slave to

sin, but have become a slave to righteousness.

This death released me from my marriage bond to sin and Satan, and I am free to become the Bride of Christ.”

- 2) This too must be your testimony!
 - 3) It should feel very empowering.
- c) Paul chooses to insert the diary of his personal struggle, after this powerful revelation. (It is critical you read this as a diary entry.)
- d) Why would Paul confess his past resistance in this letter, after he already revealed the ultimate outcome of our faith?
- 1) Because it is important for you to understand how it relates to your own personal journey.
 - 2) The conclusion of Paul’s many years of wrestling to understand the transaction that occurs when one becomes a Christian, revelation he just revealed, was not finalized, only to yield a guy buried in constant turmoil to choose right!
 - 3) He was not trapped in these struggles when wrote Romans. That would not be empowering.
 - 4) He is simply including his journey of discovery!
- e) Not to be used as an excuse!

- 1) This diary entry is not permission to indulge your wrong choices, as if you'd be keeping good company with Paul.
- 2) As if to say, "Paul constantly struggled as a Christian, so it's fine for me as well!"
- f) Paul is giving an account of struggles on his journey from the time of his conversion onward, as he fought to understand the fullness of his transformation.
 - 1) "I really can't comprehend the bad choices I've made along the way. Why did I neglect what I knew to do and why did I participate, at times, in activities and thoughts which I had grown to despise?"
 - 2) He is also teaching us that our weakness actually affirms the goodness of God's commands, as they were meant to expose any remnant of sin that remains in us.
- g) He also reveals the final resolution that he concluded as a result of his journey.
 - 1) What you must decide is if you would rather join him in his turmoil or adopt the solution.
3. Don't mistake what is being said here:

a) Walking away from every sinful passion takes total focus and commitment for each one of us, and that is possible only by constant access to God's grace, as we practice our faith.

1) *"Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV*

2) Knowing the solution and walking it out in every area of our lives are two very different things.

b) Obey God's commands in practice, just like Christ did!

1) *"Now **by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments**. He who says, "I know Him," **and does not keep His commandments, is a liar**, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. **He who says he abides in Him***

ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” I

John 2:3-6 NKJV

- 2) Don't be deceived, regardless of how difficult it may be at times, we are absolutely called to walk it out, just as Jesus demonstrated!

B. The one struggling isn't me!

(1) The Inner Struggle

- (a) Sin in the believer comes from the old nature which is no longer who you are.

1. “But now, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.** For I know that in me (that is, **in my flesh**) **nothing good dwells**; for **to will is present** with me, but how **to perform** what is good **I do not find**. For **the good that I will to do, I do not do**; but **the evil I will not to do, that I practice**. Now **if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.**” Romans 7:17-20 NKJV

2. There has to be a viable explanation:

- a) How and why it is possible for someone to have died to sin, been freed from the bondage of Satan, and then united with righteousness, to still struggle by making the wrong choices?

b) The answer lies in understanding what occurred at your born-again moment. (Equally important is what did not occur.)

1) The moment you surrendered your life to Christ you were given access to the Spirit of God and to His grace.

c) What didn't happen is a complete disconnect from your access to the spirit of man, with which you were born.

1) *"For what man knows the things of a man **except the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."* 1

Corinthians 2:11-12 NKJV

2) *"For you **did not receive the spirit of bondage again** to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption** by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father.""*

Romans 8:15 NKJV

- d) The spirit of man still has the power to animate your flesh, should you choose. You have to make a choice!
 - 1) *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, **who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**"* Romans 8:1 NKJV
- e) Also critical is the understanding of your new identity.
 - 1) You maintain access to your old flesh nature, and nothing good can come of that.
 - 2) You also must recognize that your old nature is no longer who you are.
 - 3) When you practice evil contrary the will of your new identity, it is literally not you who performs the dirty deed, but the sin that still dwells in your flesh.
- f) The new you is not a sinner, but a saint!
 - 1) **Not a Sinner:** *"Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and **he cannot sin**, because he has been born of God."* 1 John 3:9 NKJV

- 2) **Called a Saint:** *"To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are **sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:"* I Corinthians 1:2 NKJV
(and 14 other times in the New Testament)
- g) You may not like it and you may wish God had simply removed any access to the old you, but that would contradict the nature of God.
- h) God is love and love is a choice. (Read I John 4)
 - 1) *"He who does not love does not know God, for **God is love.**"* I John 4:8 NKJV
 - 2) *"Behold **what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us**, that we should be called children of God! ..."* I John 3:1 NKJV
 - 3) *"Therefore, as **the elect of God, holy and beloved**, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;"* Colossians 3:12 NKJV
 - 4) *"We love Him **because He first loved us.**"* I John 4:19 NKJV
- i) Before you were born-again...

- 1) Contrary to your abilities prior to coming to God when you had only one option—sin leading to death, now you have the choice to no longer sin.
- 2) By having a choice we prove our love for God.
- j) Volunteer to surrender the option to sin and dive into the whole new world of freedom.
 - 1) True freedom is when you surrender all options except the godly one.
 - 2) “I will no longer sin because God’s way is the only choice for me!”
 - 3) Sure sin dwells in me, but that is no longer who I am—I am not the sinner!
- k) That is the freedom for which Christ set you free.
 - 1) *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which **Christ has made us free**, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”*
Galatians 5:1 NKJV
 - 2) *“And you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**”* John 8:32 NKJV
- l) Another important perspective on these two spirits to which you have access.

- 1) *"and what is the exceeding greatness of **His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power **which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:19-20 NKJV*
- 2) In your born-again state you were given access to the power of God that raised Christ from the grave.
- m) You were also permitted to use that power for good or evil, again so you might demonstrate your authentic love for God.
 - 1) The primary mechanism by which this liberty fuels the wrong choices is when you use God's power to resurrect your old nature from the dead, that which had previously died to sin.
 - 2) You are given resurrection power, but you are not restricted on how you will use it.
- n) Rather than resurrect your old man, use God's grace to flee from sin and impart life to those around you.
 - 1) *"Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus*

*Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV*

2) *Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV*

3) *”Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV*

TWO LAWS

3. The Law of God and the Law of Sin

A. Two Sets of Rules

(1) Two laws at odds with one another

(a) As a born-again Christian, two spirits dwell within you and each animates its own set of rules.

1. “I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I **delight in the law of God** according to the **inward man**. But I see **another law** in my members, **warring against the law of my**

mind, and bringing me into captivity to **the law of sin** which is in my members.” Romans 7:21-23 NKJV

2. Two Laws

a) The Law of Sin

- 1) Animates the evil that remains in you.
- 2) The sinful nature will enjoy every ounce of debauchery.

b) The Law of God

- 1) The one which desires to be righteous.
- 2) The inner man that delights in God’s laws.
- 3) This Spirit is aligned with the mind of Christ.

c) As you can see, these two spirits align with two different sets of laws.

- 1) *“that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who **do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit**. For **those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh**, but **those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit**. For to be **carnally minded** is death, but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

*So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit**, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” Romans 8:4-9 NKJV*

- 2) One spirit is married to the law of God and the other is in a constant battle with it, and remains in bondage to the law of sin and death.

ONE SOLUTION ONE RESOLUTION

4. Who Has Delivered Me?

A. One Savior One Law

- (1) Freedom is having no other choice!

- (a) When you recognize how wretched is the old nature in you that loves sin, you will appreciate all the more that you are no longer that person.

1. **“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord [One Solution]! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God [One Resolution], but with the flesh the law of sin.**
” Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

2. [Solution] the means of solving a problem.
[Resolution] the firm decision to do or not to do something.
- a) The one solution and resolution that freed the old man from imminent death already happened.
 - 1) The only thing that remains is for you to distinguish the true you who now lives to obey God's commands from the old you who was resolute to satisfy your sinful passions.
 - b) Maybe the most important detail to acknowledge is that your deliverance has already occurred.
 - 1) "Who will deliver me from the constant battle to do what is right?
 - 2) Praise God, Y'shua already did."
 - c) Now it is up to you to decide to whom you will obey, your old nature and sinful passions which leads to death, or radical obedience to the law of God leading to a life of righteousness.
 - 1) ***"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"*** Romans 6:16 NKJV

d) Excerpt from the Introduction

- 1) *“Who will deliver me from this body of death?”
It all comes down to this journal entry; “Thank you Father, your Son has already delivered me from this struggle. I get it now, my old flesh serves the law of sin; but, the new man, born-again in Christ, serves the laws of my God.”*
- 2) *Now, the great question for all of us. Do we join Paul in his struggle, or do we join him in his discovery, his victory? You have his diary entries to draw from; why repeat his mistakes?*
- 3) *Choose now to agree with the law of sin that has you doing things you know you shouldn’t and neglecting things you know you should, or live as the new creature and serve the laws of God who sent His Son to die for you that you might be born-again and filled with His grace.*

Summary: DIARY OF A METAMORPHOSIS

1. Identity Transfiguration

A. A Complete Transformation...

- (1) Once a carnal man, but now I am a new creation.
 - (a) The Romans Road of Transformation!

1. Transfiguration / Metamorphosis

- a) [Transfiguration] A complete change of form or appearance into a more beautiful or spiritual state.
- b) [Metamorphosis] A change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one by natural or supernatural means

2. Do not conform to the world but be transformed!

Declare...

- a) I died, was buried, and resurrected with Christ, so I walk in newness of life.
- b) My old man was crucified with Him; sin is done away with; I am no longer a slave of sin.
- c) I am dead to sin and alive to God.
- d) I am set free from sin and have become a slave of righteousness.
- e) I am set free from sin and now am a slave of God.
- f) I died with Christ and was delivered from the law that held me bound to Satan. Now I serve in the newness of the Spirit.
- g) God's law is spiritual; the old me is carnal.
- h) With a new mind I serve the law of God; with the old flesh I serve the law of sin.

- i) However, I am not in the old flesh but in the Spirit (Christ is in me); the old body is dead (that is no longer me!); the new Spirit is alive (that is who I am now!)
- j) I no longer conform to this world, I am transformed with a renewed mind—the mind of Christ.

(b) The Mind of Christ

1. We have access to the mind of Christ!
 - a) When you were born again, you were no longer only animated by the spirit of man with which you were born; now you also have access to the Spirit of God.
 - b) Sure the mind of God is unsearchable and beyond understanding in your former state (when you had access to only the spirit of man).
 - c) But now, with the Spirit of God in you, you have access to the mind of Christ. You can think like God!
 - d) The mind of Christ is now the weapon you should use to fight every battle. To do so you must bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of

Christ. Then and only then can you judge the disobedience in your midst.

B. The Journey to the Mind of Christ

- (1) Paul's transformation began with...
 - (a) A light, a voice, and two questions!
 1. A light shone; a voice spoke and Paul asked two questions...
 - a) "Who are You, Lord?" "I am Jesus!"
 - b) "Lord, what do You want me to do?" "Go!" And Paul went!
 2. Paul would have recognized this encounter as the one Moses had in the wilderness!
 - a) A fire (flash of light)! Curiosity and willingness to go!.
 - b) "Who are you?" "What do You want me to do?"
- (2) It took Paul 14 years of preparation.
 - (a) He was sorting out the very message we are seeing here in Romans.
- (3) Paul endured horrific persecution and suffering.
 - (a) It culminated with this revelation!
- (4) The radical transformation that took place in Paul yielded this understanding!
 - (a) We too must come to this understanding!

1. You no longer belong to yourself.
 - a) The old you was purchased with the blood of Christ.
 - b) He died, was buried, and resurrected. You died, were buried, and resurrected with Him.
 - c) The person standing there that looks like the old you in the mirror, the one you can touch, is NO LONGER the old version of you.
 - d) It is now possessed and animated by Christ!
- (b) You are a NEW CREATION
 1. Can it be any more obvious?
 - a) If you have Christ in you, you are a new man!
 - b) Gone are all your old ways of thinking and acting.
 - c) Your new being has been totally revamped into the image of the one who created you!

Summary: TWO SPIRITS

2. The Diary of an Inner Struggle

A. The inner struggle validates the goodness of God's commands...

(1) A Contiguous Message

- (a) The Law is good; I'm the one with the problem.

1. How can we begin to understand what Paul wishes to convey if we move off the target even one degree?
 - a) Everything that landed us in this spot must be dragged forward.
 - b) Paul has already discovered and declared this deepest revelation.
 - 1) "I died, was buried with, and resurrected as a new creature in Christ. I am no longer a slave to sin, but have become a slave to righteousness. This death released me from my marriage bond to sin and Satan, and I am free to become the Bride of Christ."
 - 2) This too must be your testimony!
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 - c) Paul chooses to insert the diary of his personal struggle, after this powerful revelation. (It is critical you read this as a diary entry.)
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- 1) **Not a Sinner:**
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d) Excerpt from the Introduction

1) *“Who will deliver me from this body of death?”*

It all comes down to this journal entry; “Thank you Father, your Son has already delivered me from this struggle. I get it now, my old flesh serves the law of sin; but, the new man, born-again in Christ, serves the laws of my God.”

2) *Now, the great question for all of us. Do we join Paul in his struggle, or do we join him in his discovery, his victory? You have his diary entries to draw from; why repeat his mistakes?*

3) *Choose now to agree with the law of sin that has you doing things you know you shouldn't and neglecting things you know you should, or live as the new creature and serve the laws of God who sent His Son to die for you that you might be born-again and filled with His grace.*

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Paul treats us to a snapshot of his road to transformation in his letter to the Romans.

- A. Use the following Romans passages to describe the transformation that happens to each one of us. (See: Romans 6:4; 6:6; 6:11; 6:18; 6:22; 7:6; 7:14; 7:25; 8:9-10; 12:2)

2. The end-game of your *metamorphosis is to think like God.

- A. How do the following scripture passages support this belief? (See: I Corinthians 2:12; Romans 11:33-34; I Corinthians 2:16; II Corinthians 10:4-6)
- B. *[Metamorphosis] A change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one by natural or supernatural means.

3. Compare Paul's conversion experience in Acts 9:3-6 with Moses' burning bush experience in Exodus 3:2-14.

- A. Consider the light, the fire, the questions asked, what God says, and the responses of both Paul and Moses.

4. It took Paul 14 years of preparation (even before he launched into full-time ministry) to sort out the message we are seeing here in Romans. (See Galatians 2:1) Discuss and describe in your own words the following...

- A. Paul endured horrific persecution and suffering and with what it culminated. (See Acts 14:19-22)
- B. The radical transformation that took place in Paul and what understanding it yielded. (See: I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 2:20)
- C. The Ultimate Revelation: (See: II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-10)
- D. Bonus from Peter: Gone are all your old ways of thinking and acting. (See I Peter 4:3)

5. Paul says, “The Law is good; I’m the one with the problem.”

- A. Use Romans 7:12-16 to support that statement.
- B. Use Romans 5:1-2 to support the idea that walking away from every sinful passion takes total focus and commitment for each one of us, and that is possible only by constant access to God’s grace, as we practice our faith.
- C. Use to John 2:3-6 to support the premises that we are to obey God’s commands in practice, just like Christ did!

6. The following doctrine may be the most critical of all when it comes to understanding your temptation to sin. “*Sin in the believer comes from the old nature which is no longer who you are.*”

- A. Support this theology with Romans 7:17-20.

B. Understanding this doctrine in further detail requires you to know what occurred at your born-again moment, and equally important, what did not occur. Describe such using Corinthians 2:11-12 and Romans 8:1-9.

7. You may not like it and you may wish God had simply removed any access to the old you, but that would contradict the nature of God.

A. This is because God is love and love is a choice. (Use I John 4:8; 3:1; 4:19; Colossians 3:12 to explain this rationale.)

8. The new you is not a sinner, but a saint!

A. Use I John 3:9 and I Corinthians 1:2 to support this statement.

B. The freedom for which Christ set you free assures your sainthood. (Please explain using Galatians 5:1 and John 8:32.)

9. In your born-again state you were given access to the power of God that raised Christ from the grave. (See Ephesians 1:19-20) You were permitted to use that power for good or evil.

A. The evil application is to use God's power to resurrect your old nature from the dead. Rather than do so, see Romans 5:1-2; II Corinthians 5:17 and Ephesians 4:29, and describe what you can do to ensure you will use it for only good.

10. Describe the two spirits and two sets of laws from Romans 7:21-23.

- A. Use Romans 8:4-9 to show how these two spirits align with two different sets of laws.

11. When you recognize how wretched is the old nature in you that loves sin, you will appreciate all the more that you are no longer that person.

- A. Use Romans 7:24-25 to describe the one *solution and one **resolution.
- B. *[Solution] the means of solving a problem.
- C. **[Resolution] the firm decision to do or not to do something.