

God's Good News About Righteousness

An Inductive Study of the Book of Romans

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The Futility of Sanctification by Means of the Law (Romans 7:1-25), Part 2 Study 14, The Impossibility of Becoming More Holy by Trying to Keep the Law. Romans 7:1-14-25

- A. INTRODUCTION: The Writer, the Readers, and the Good News (Romans 1:1-17). (Study 1)
- B. CONDEMNATION: The Unveiling of God's Wrath against Man's Unrighteousness 1:18 - 3:20 (Studies 2-5)
- C. JUSTIFICATION: The Declaration of Righteousness through Faith 3:21 - 5:21 (Studies 6-10)
- D. **SANCTIFICATION: The Out-working of Righteousness in the Believer's Experience 6 - 8.**
 - 1. The Necessity of Sanctification in Relation to Sin. 6:1-23. (Studies 11, 12)
 - 2. The Futility of the Believer's Sanctification by Means of the Law. 7:1-25. Part 1, The Believer Has been Freed from the Law, But the Law is Still Good. (Romans 7:1-13), Study 13.
 - 3. **The Futility of the Believer's Sanctification by Means of the Law. 7:1-25. Part 2. The impossibility of attaining sanctification by keeping the Law (because of the sin principle residing in the human body) (Romans 7:14-25), Study 14.**
 - a. **The Basic Reason for the Impossibility. 7:14.**
 - 1) What is true about the Law? _____.
 - 2) What is true about me?
 - a) I am made of _____.
 - b) I am _____.

b. The Elaboration of the Impossibility. 7:15-20.

- 1) The person who is under the Law does what he hates. 7:15-17.
 - a) How would you describe the experience in 7:15 in your own words?
 - b) If I find myself doing something I know is wrong and really don't want to do it, what am I saying about God's Law? 7:16.
 - c) So if I find myself doing something I don't really want to do, it's not me who is doing it, but something else is doing it. What is that something else? 7:17
- 2) The person who is under the Law is unable to do the good he wishes to do. 7:18-20.
 - a) This is so, first of all, because there is nothing _____ that exists in my _____.¹ 7:18a.
 - b) The _____ to do good is present in me, but the _____ of good is not. 7:18b.
 - c) What happens to the good that I want to do? 7:19a.
 - d) What do I wind up practicing? 7:19b.
 - e) If I find myself doing the very thing I don't want to do, what is it that is living and working in me? 7:20.

c. The Result of the Impossibility – The Principle of Continual Conflict for the One Under the Law. 7:21-25.

- 1) Paul bemoans a universal law or principle that he has found to be true in his life: _____ is present within him, even though he wants to do _____. 7:21.
- 2) In his inner being, he agrees with the _____ of God. 7:22.

¹ 7:18 - flesh. In Paul's writings, the term "flesh" usually refers to the human body contaminated by sin and the sin nature which we all have inherited.

- 3) But there is a different law at work in the different members of his _____. 7:23a.
 - a) This different law constantly wages war against the law of his _____, which wants to follow God's law. 7:23b.
 - b) This different law is the law of _____. This law is always at work in the members of his body. 7:23c.
 - 4) Paul groans that he is a wretched man. 7:24. What is it that he longs to be free from?
 - 5) Who is the only one who can free us from our body which is contaminated by sin and leads us inevitably to death? 7:25a. _____. Ultimately, that will happen when we die and are resurrected, no longer slaves to a sin-contaminated, dying body!
 - 6) Paul summarizes the dilemma facing every Christian. 7:25b.
 - a) What do we serve with our minds?
 - b) What do we serve with our flesh?
4. What Paul has been trying to tell us is that it is impossible for us to work hard at keeping the Law in order to become more holy. Our human flesh (our body contaminated by sin) does not have power to keep God's laws. We want to with our minds, but we fail with our bodies. **WE HUMANS DO NOT HAVE THE POWER TO OVERCOME OUR SIN-CURSED BODIES!** It is impossible for us to become more holy merely by struggling to keep God's Law!
5. How then can we ever succeed at living a Godly Christian life, separated from the evil desires of our own hearts and the practices and life styles of the people around us? Is there no hope? Are we doomed to fail repeatedly? We will find the answer to that question in Study 15, beginning in Romans 8!

Study 14, The Futility of Sanctification by Means of the Law, Part 2: The Impossibility of Becoming More Holy by Trying to Keep the Law.

Romans 7:14-25

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