

Romans

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish
November 3, 2024
Romans 7:14-25



Vss. 14-20

- Why is it that as we read the Bible and as we are taught and we **know** the good that Christ calls us to do, that instead we do the very opposite of what we know we should? This is what Paul is addressing here. And he does so in the first person. So often we think of Paul and Peter and John as spiritual super heroes who always have it together, who never have a struggle. But of course, nothing could be further from the truth. They were all just people, no different than you and me.
- This reality was not lost on Paul contemporaries. The Roman and Greek writers saw it. The poet Ovid wrote, "I see the better things and I approve them, but I follow the worst". The rabbis taught that there was an evil in each person that was present even in the womb and that only wisdom, reason, and a strict adherence to the law could defeat it.
- Paul knew all this and yet understood that while such a defense was good in theory anyone with eyes knew that in practice it wasn't true.
- William Barclay suggests that all this points up three human realities: 1) the inadequacy of human knowledge - merely *knowing* what the right thing in no way means that we will *do* the right thing 2) the inadequacy of human resolution - in human nature lies a very common weakness in our will; Peter swore he would die for Jesus, yet failed spectacularly; often the slightest bit of peer pressure is all we need to cave in 3) the limitations of diagnosis – many are quick to tell you what is wrong but then have no answer as to the cure.

Vss. 21-25

- Sin does not easily die. Consider all that Jesus endured the 24 hours before He dies on the cross. Paul here is openly honest about who he is and who we all are. There is a war within us, a war between Good and Evil, between Grace and Sin. For those who have believed in Christ and are saved, their lives were once filled with sin, but Christ invaded our lives to retake that which was once fully His. The war will rage on until the day we stand before Christ where our sin will be utterly destroyed.

- Because God so loved the world and sent His Word, His Word who became flesh and dwelt among us, the Father now understands the war within us. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was frustrated with the disciples for their not being able to stay awake. “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41). So while Jesus was disappointed with the disciples, as He often is with us, He was not surprised, knowing how weak our resolve truly is.
- “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” By our *own* wisdom, knowledge, strength, or self-discipline we are going to fail and likely be in torment and suffering as we journey to our destruction.
- But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5:27-28, Jesus is saying that its not enough to merely NOT commit adultery, but even if you look at someone with lust in your heart you have already committed adultery. WOW! Then how can we win? If it’s not just about what we actually do or don’t do, but what we think in our mind or feel in our heart, how can we win? On our own, we can’t win. On our own, we can do nothing. Jesus said what he did in Mathhew 5 to show us just how dependent we are on Him every minute of every day. Sin wars within me every day as long as I live (vs. 1), but because of our eternal life with Christ, when we are given a new body, an eternal body, we can triumph with Christ, we can live because of Christ.