

## The Basis of Struggle in “Being Christian”

Romans 7:14-25

### FOR OUR CONSIDERATION:

#### The Inner Conflict (Verses 14-24)

- The nature of (Christian) law is spiritual. The Apostle however, introduces the conflict right up front:
  - WHO we follow (The Living Word) and WHAT we are governed by (The Recorded Word) is spiritual.
    - However, we are born in flesh and, “enslaved to/by sin”.
    - The diet of the flesh is sin -sin cultivates destruction.
- Paul is an exceptional intellectual leader and has a solid grip on religious thought. YET, He says: “*I don’t understand what I do sometimes.*”
- Authentic Christian living is always humble to the degree that those who pursue Christ realize their limitations and fragile & fickle they truly are!
- When we entertain things we should not do, according to Paul, it is not our “new nature” (the nature of Christ) that enacts this BUT,
  - It is our flesh that takes priority... based on the DECISION.
- Being Christian must be a decision. The decision to be Christian is a daily confession & pursuit
  - By THOUGHT. WORD. And DEED.
- Paul remains a critical part of Christian history and many argue he’s responsible with as much as 70% of the New Testament. However,
  - He confesses to us the saints dispersed throughout the Roman world that he struggles to be holy. It’s a challenge to be a Christian.
- This is helpful for us who are experiencing the modern day RESET of the Church Universal.
  - Our priorities must change.
    - (For example: We must no longer be more LEGAL than LOVING)
- Notice his observation in verse 21: “I find it a law...”

- *Is it possible, that part of what will help us to be even stronger in our following Jesus Christ and being true to our claim as believers is to recognize that struggles/distractions/adversity is a part of the process of being Christian?*
- He then quickly, graciously helps us as an Apostolic Father by sharing that while deep within his love of GOD and the law (Word) of GOD is something he loves, the war against GOD's Will for his life is being fought in his MIND.
  - The priority of the evil one is to conquer the individual and communal mind.
    - The mind commands the attention and activity of the body!
- Therefore, the process of Being Christian has much more to do with our MIND
  - We must give greater attention to what's INTERNAL vs the EXTERNAL.
- He then poses the question: "Who shall rescue me from this 'body of death'?"
  - Could be a reference to his earlier insights found in Romans 6:23

### **The Eternal Cure (Verse 25)**

- He points all of us back to the Source of strength, life and power: **GOD**
  - This Source is made available to us through the gift of adoption through Jesus Christ!
- And, as often as we remember, call upon and acknowledge Christ, we should give thanks!
  - Jesus Christ is way to GOD and the Holy Spirit keeps us and put us in constant connection with Christ.