

Romans 7:14-25 NASB2020

'The Natural Christian Life'

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June 2023

Learning objectives

- Analyze: Romans 7:14-25.
- Interpret it: What does this mean?
- Apply it: What shall we do about this?

The Epistle to the Romans

Chapters

1 The power of God.

1-3 Disbelief and its consequences.

4 Abraham's example.

5 Peace with God.

6-8 Victory over sin.

9-11 Salvation for Israel.

12-14 Leading a new life.

15-16 Mission to the Gentiles.

Four views on Romans 7:14-25

- Paul's pre-conversion experience.
- Paul's pre-Spirit experience.
- Paul's post conversion experience.
- Paul's universal human experience.

Purposes of 7:14-25

- Explain why everyone struggles with evil desires.
- Explain why everyone needs a strong saviour.
- Explain why Christians so easily fail to live righteously.
- Prepare Christian readers to learn to 'walk according to the Spirit'.

Romans 7:1-13 Summary

God's righteous law, whilst promising life, reveals that I commit sin, thereby condemning me to death.

The following analysis was simplified from Ellis W. Deibler, Jr., *A Semantic and Structural Analysis of Romans*, Summer Institute of Linguistics, Dallas (1998), 382 pages. ISBN 1-55671-072-0. Faulty application is solely mine.

Romans 7:14

Explanation: **For**
 Orienter: **we know that**
 Contrast: **the Law is spiritual,**
 Thesis: **but I am fleshly,**
 Amplified: **sold into bondage to sin.**

God’s laws in Romans 7:14-25

- the Law is spiritual 14
- I agree with the Law 16
- the Law is good 16
- I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person 22
- the law of my mind 23
- I myself with my mind am serving the law of God 25

	The Law is spiritual	I am fleshly
Origin	From the Holy Spirit	From the earth
Purpose	Relate to God	Relate to the world
Effect	Emotional joy	Seek after pleasure, power
Result	Relational peace with God & others	Enmity, hatred, strife
End	Everlasting life	Everlasting death

Romans 7:15

Justification 1: **For**
 Generic: **I do not understand what I am doing;**
 Specific: (negative) **for I am not practicing what I want to do,**
 (positive) **but I do the very thing I hate.**

Romans 7:16

Justification 2: **However** (Lit. ‘and’)
 Ground: **[since] I do the very thing [that] I do not want to do,**
 Conclusion: **I agree with the Law, that the Law is good.**

If: Greek 1st class condition, the verb in the indicative case. The writer concedes that the condition is true: ‘since’

Romans 7:17

Justification 3: **But now**

Thesis: (negative) **no longer am I the one doing it,**

(positive) **but sin that dwells in me.**

Indwelling sin in 7:14-25

- bondage to sin 14
- sin that dwells in me 17, 20, 23
- evil is present in me 21
- this death 24
- the law of sin 23

Romans 7:18

Amplification 1: **For**

Thesis: **I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh;**

Contrast: **for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.**

Romans 7:19

Amplification 2: **For**

Contrast : **the good that I want, I do not do,**

Thesis: **but I practice the very evil that I do not want.**

Romans 7:20

Restatement: **But**

Ground: **[since] I do the very thing I do not want,**

Thesis: **I am no longer the one doing it, but sin that dwells in me.**

Romans 7:21

Deduction: **then**

Problem

Orientation: **I find then the principle that**

Thesis: **evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.**

Romans 7:22-23

Explanation: **For**

Concession: **I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person,**

Amplification: **but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin, the law which is in my body's parts.**

Romans 7:24

Seeking

Complaint: **Wretched man that I am!**

Means: **Who will set me free from [this body of] death?**

Romans 7:25a

Solution

Orientation: **Thanks be to God**

Content: **through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Romans 7:25b

Conclusion: **So then,**

Contrast: **on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God,**

Thesis: **but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.**

My predicament in 7:14-25

- I am fleshly, sold into bondage to sin 14
- I am not practicing what I want to do 15
- I do the very thing I hate 15
- the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not 18
- I do the very evil that I do not want 20
- making me a prisoner of the law of sin 23

Theological implications

- God created humans 'good' but not perfect, for they were able to sin.
- When Adam sinned, he died, and his posterity became mortal.
- All human beings who survive infancy, when tempted, sin and fall under bondage to sin.
- Thus, sin indwells all human beings, including Christians.

Wherein do we currently struggle?

- Substances versus Spirit?
- Hobbies versus humans?
- Money versus loving others?
- Foods versus health?
- Internet versus Scripture?
- Porn versus purity?
- Politics versus gospel?
- Pleasure versus joy?