

THE LAW CANNOT SAVE. Rom 7:13-25

Sept 8, 2024

INTRODUCTION

1. 6:1-14 — Question or Objection 1.

- A. The Reason for it — 5:20
- B. The Question or Objection — 6:1 — Are we to conclude from what you have written that more sin in the life of believer brings more grace into the life of that believer?
- C. The Answer — No! Sin ≠ grace++.

2. 6:15-7:6 — Question or Objection 2.

1. The Reason for it — 6:14
2. The Question or Objection — 6:15 — Are we to think that since we are under grace and not under the Mosaic Law that we can sin? Does grace = more sinning?
3. The Answer — No! Grace ≠ sin++.

3. 7:7-12 — Question or Objection 3.

1. The Reason for it — 7:5
2. The Question or Objection — 7:7 — Are we to conclude from this that the Mosaic Law is sinful?
3. The Answer — No! The Law was used by sin to kill; the Law is not sin, but holy, just, and good.

Key Questions: (1) Who is being written about? (2) What is the spiritual condition of this person? Is he a believer or unbeliever? Is he justified or not?

4 Possible Answers:

1. This is Paul writing about his own personal christian experience as he struggles with sin.
2. This is Paul writing about his person pre-conversion experience as a Jew under the Law.
3. This is Paul writing about the general Jewish experience under the Law.
4. Combination of views 2 & 3 — This is Paul writing about his personal pre-conversion experience under the Law as that which would have been the typical experience of any faithful Jew under the Law.

I. Position 1 — This Is About A Christians Struggle With Sin.

- A. Reason 1: The "I's" "Me's" and "my's" (1st Person Pronouns) — Paul Is Writing About Himself.
- B. Reason 2: Present Tense Verbs — Paul Is Writing About Himself as a Christian.
- C. Reason 3: Phrases Which Could Only Pertain to a Christian — Paul Is Writing About Himself in a Way That Could Only Pertain to a Christian. (vv. 22, 25; Expressions of wanting to do what is right: vv. 15b, 18b, 19, 21)
- D. Reason 4 — I'm a Christian and This Is my Personal Experience.

II. The Evaluation Of The View That This Is A Christian's Struggle With Sin.

- A. Evaluation of Reasons 1 & 2 — Not Accurate or Valid.
- B. Evaluation of Reason 3 — Selective Evidence.
- C. Evaluation of Reason 4 — Invalid as Evidence.

III. Paul Is Writing About Himself, Using Himself As The Representative Of The Typical Jew Under The Mosaic Law Without Christ

- A. Phrases That Are Only True of an Unbeliever: "Sold under sin" (v. 14); "Sin dwells in me" (v. 17); "nothing good dwells in me" (v. 18); "captivity to the law of sin" (v. 23); and "Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (v. 24).
- B. This Passage Describes a Defeated Person, Not a Struggling Person.
- C. The Context — Final and Strongest Evidence.
 1. Previous Argument — In chapters 1-3, Paul has carefully argued that everyone is a sinner and therefore everyone is guilty before God and in line to receive His wrath. In chapter 6, Paul has begun to bring up questions and objections to Justification being by Grace through Faith, with no involvement by the Mosaic Law whatsoever.
 2. Following Argument — chapter 8:
 - a) In chapters 6 & 7, Paul has demonstrated the relationship between the Jew...the Law...sin...and death.
 - b) In chapter 8 we see that because of Justification, victory over sin and death has been secured, never to be lost.
 - c) Chapter 8 makes little sense if it is a contrast between the believer struggling/defeated by/with sin, and the believer living in the spirit.