

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Good News > Temporal Blessings > Paul's Sanctification Testimony

Part 2

Romans 7:21-25

In the first part of Paul's testimony of his struggles with the presence of sin in his body, we saw how he is clearly talking about his experiences as a seasoned apostle and one of the greatest teachers and theologians the world has ever seen. Despite all these accomplishments, he admits to being still plagued by the strong pull of sin in his life, still trying to gain the upper hand with him. Rather than diminishing this great man in our eyes, it confirms the reality of God's salvation power in Paul's own life and it encourages us who can identify with Paul's words in our own walk. If Paul had this struggle, certainly we can expect to as well.

At the center of the whirlwind of frustration and confusion in the life of the believer is the reality that though our inner persons have been transformed by God's power, our outer persons (i.e., bodies) have not yet been so. We will see this come to a head at the end of the next chapter where Paul gives us a quick glimpse into God's "salvation assembly line" (8:29-30) where each person appointed for salvation according to His purpose rolls off the line at the end in a glorified body.

Here in this second part of his testimony, he concludes his thoughts by talking about the divide between the law of his mind and the law at work in his members. His conclusion is to thank God that He is working to redeem the whole person. In this intermediate state, this temporal reality now on this earth, we have to be at peace with this reality as Paul concludes in v. 25. The Christian need not despair; God has not forgotten nor is He unable to complete the salvation process!

1. Two "laws" at work in the believer (vv. 21-23)
 - a. The state of the inner man
 - b. The state of the outer man
2. The believer's present unbalanced state (v. 24)
3. Gratitude to God for His completed work (v. 25a)
4. Conclusion: God isn't finished; don't get discouraged (v. 25b)