

Romans 7:24-8:2

- **The Depth of Struggle:**

Romans 7 -- The depth of a Christian's struggle with the Mosaic Code, the Power of Sin, and the Pull of the Flesh.

The next chapter -- the crescendo of hope. The path to it: seeing Romans 7:24-25 in context.

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”

A hidden historical analogy: *“Who will rescue me from this body of death?”*

A form of capital punishment the Romans utilized. A convicted murderer tied to the corpse of the one he killed. The criminal was forced to carry the corpse until the decomposing flesh eventually caused disease and death.

Paul sees the Mosaic Law, The Power of Sin and The Pull of Flesh as if he is being forced to carry this “body of death”.

- **The Frustration of Internal Battles:**

As the apostle rounds out his description of his internal battles, he points out the enemies within are stronger than even his renewed self. He's saying that, by itself, the new life is not sufficient for the victory that he longs for.

Two Laws: 1. The demand of God placed on him by the Mosaic Code.
2. The principle that is at work in his mind: The law of indwelling sin he has described in Romans 7:21 & 25.

The crisis: Verse 24 -- *"Oh, wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"*

An important word in that sentence: "Who?". D. Barnhouse: "Paul is at the end of self -- the only time God can come in and deliver the believer."

Paul's answer -- verse 25 -- "I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

- **The New Freedom: Romans 8**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

- **The Liberation of The Spirit:**

The very first word of chapter eight: "Therefore". Continuity and Conclusion: Paul is drawing conclusions based upon the entire argument he has been making since the beginning.

"No Condemnation": After all of this talk about the Mosaic Code exposing sin, provoking sin, and condemning sin -- Paul says, *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus..."*

“No condemnation” -- the negative form of “justified”: No condemnation is the equivalent of justification.

An interesting parallel:

- Chapter 5: “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- Chapter 8: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” That’s the negative declaration, but it has the same purpose.

The freedom that comes from our “non-condemnation” state: “... Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free. What have we been set free from? It’s the law of sin and death.

A shocking characterization: “The Law of sin and death”. Most Jews must have found it shocking that Paul calls it the “Law of sin and death”.

Examples of this characterization: Exodus 24:23ff; Leviticus 24:10-23; Joshua 7:25

Major Conclusions: 1. Our freedom from the law of sin and death came specifically through Christ. 2. This freedom no longer obligates us to the Mosaic Code which was unable to provide us justification or sanctification.

- **Next time:** More of this freedom