

God's Law and the War Within Rom. 7:13-25

Last Mosaic Law question in ch.7—Does the Law cause death?
Same answer as in 6:2, 7:7 with Paul' own personal testimony.

My death: actually a result of sin, not the Law. 13

- ◆Another objection aimed to blame the Law Paul will rebut.
- ◆Paul is a believer here: (1) pres. tense, (2) divided view of self versus Phil. 3:4-9, (3) hatred for sin, (4) 7:25 = present struggle.

My condition: being flesh sold in bondage to sin. 14/18a

- ◆Note repetitive recalling of our condition, conflict, conclusion.
- ◆We/I know that the Law is spiritual (divine), but I am sinful!

My conflict: doing what I hate, not what I want. 15/18b,19

I am frustrated/baffled since I don't want to sin, and I do want to do good. 7x *I want/wish* in 7:15-21, cf. Gal. 5:16,17.

My conclusion: sin is at fault rather than me or the Law. 16,17/20

- ◆My failures not to do as I want prove the Law is good.
- ◆My failures not to do as I want prove sin is at fault, not me.
Is this an excuse/avoiding responsibility? See II Cor. 5:10.

My discovery: laws divide me and wage war within me. 21-23

- ◆I find this law → I want to do good, but evil is so present!
- ◆Thus my war within = members of my body (law of sin) vs. inner man (law of my mind). Outcome = two cries . . .

My cries: one of despair and one of eventual triumph. 24,25

- ◆This conflict leads to a cry for deliverance from a person.
- ◆The deliverer is God through Jesus, and ch. 8 explains how to avoid a double servitude and when it ends forever.

No amount of personal grit and self-determination will enable me to obey the Law and be free from sin and death. I need God's help in order to do what I truly want to do.

