

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO GRACE.
THE FOUNDATION OF NEW TESTAMENT THEOLOGY.

Romans 7:21-25

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Am I Me”- Part 3

The Gospel of Grace. The Foundation of New Testament Theology
And How The Justified Shall Live by Faith in Jesus Christ Alone.

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Grace, Faith, Works, Paul, Law, The Spiritual vs. The Carnal, Wrath, Glory.

Romans 7:13-20

Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

Hear Paul’s final nail that is driven
into this profound reality.

Let us together, solidify this remarkable portion of scripture
by reading **verses 21-25** together in its context.

Romans 7:21-25

I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 I thank God - through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Am I Me

1.) We Know Where We Belong

vs. 21

Am I Me

We Know Where We Belong

1a.) We belong to the truth

vs. 21a

I find then a law

John 1:4

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Am I Me

We Know Where We Belong

1b.) We belong to the reality

vs. 21b

that evil is present with me,

evil

grk: kakos

bad, badness, harmful, loathsome, wrong. – the departure from what is good, goodness, beneficial, healthy, right.

present

grk: parakeimai

to be right alongside of, to be within, not only to be present but to be presenting evil. (it is as though evil is on parade within)

"The physical aspect of our humanity blocks the minds' ability to penetrate ultimate truth, but the mind, or the soul, is eternal and free and in touch with ultimate reality. The obstruction to a vision of truth is found in the body, and therefore the body is something from which we need to be redeemed."

- Plato

“To Plato, Socrates has been quoted to say,
‘It may be that God can forgive sins, but I do not see how.’”

H. A. Ironside, Lectures on the Epistle to the Romans
Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, Inc., 1928

The real, factual presence of Evil is a powerful witness
to its antithesis, its opposite – which is Good.

“Lingering sin within us does battle with every good thing a follower of Christ
desires to do, every good thought, every good intention, every good motive,
every good word, every good deed. Evil is always in opposition.”

John MacArthur

When a man is getting better he understands more and more clearly
the evil that is still left in him. When a man is getting worse he
understands his own badness less and less.”

C. S. Lewis

Am I Me

We Know Where We Belong

1c.) We belong to what is right

vs. 21c

the one who wills to do good.

This is you, me – the new creation in Christ Jesus.

Am I Me

2.) We Know What the Fight is All About

vs. 22-23

We Know What the Fight is All About

2a.) We Fight from Victory

vs. 22

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

delight

grk: sunedomai

to rejoice, to be joyous, to be light of heart, confident.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

Hebrews 12:1-2a

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that {is set before us}, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

Do you delight in God's word?
Are you being drawn closer and closer to Him?
Can you say that there's a growing part of you that lives on
the inside?

Am I Me

We Know What the Fight is All About

2b.) We Fight the Invisible

vs. 23a

23a But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind,

another grk: heteros
the other man, another one of the same kind, one that is different but of the same kind, someone else, one like me but a stranger to me (illustration: one coin is made up of two sides.)

members grk: melos
a physical part of our human body, a limb or an appendage or digit.

1. Our "bodily members" become the tools **of** our will.
2. Our "bodily members" become the tools **for** our will.
3. Our "bodily members" become the tools **by** our will.

"We never find out the strength of an evil impulse inside us
until we try to fight it.

C. S. Lewis

warring grk: antistrateuomai
to declare war, to make war against,
to prosecute a war against another

mind grk: nous
the ethereal (invisible) reality of man, the mind or understanding,
logic, reason, comprehension, the rationale of man.

Websters: Rationale (m)

The fundamental reasons or basis for which something is.
The rational basis or motive of something; that which accounts for or explains
the existence of something; a reason for being. A rational explanation or
statement of reasons; an argumentative or theoretical account,
a reasoned exposition of what is.

Mark 7:20-23

And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Am I Me

We Know What the Fight is All About

2c.) We Fight with Freedom

vs. 23b

23b and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members

captivity grk: aichmalotizo
to take or lead away captive, to take as a prisoner,
to take by force or by stealth. to seize upon and to bind up.

https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/08/sport/aaron-rogers-nfl-future-darkness-intl-spt/?dicbo=v2yryanwn&hpt=ob_blogfooterold

"It's four days and nights of complete darkness. After you check in you can leave anytime you want to if you can't do it. (You can check out any time you like But you can never leave") You can just walk out the door. It's a darkness retreat," Rodgers said, adding that "It's something that I've wanted to do for years. I've

had a number of friends who've done it and they had some pretty profound experiences." Experience has been known to produce hallucinations similar to the psychedelic drug die-menthol-trip-tha-mean (DMT) dimethyltryptamine a compound related to (LSD)

Sin is Deceptive and Active – It's Circling Looking for an Opening
Cain Killed Abel but before he did; God warned Cain – "Wake up – Fight Temptation or Else it will eat you alive"

Genesis 4:7

You will be accepted if you do what is right. But if you refuse to do what is right, then watch out! Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master."

But we fight WITH freedom knowing Christ sets us free

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

3.) We Know to Whom We Belong

vs. 24-25

Am I Me

We Know to Whom We Belong

3a.) A sinner in need of redemption

vs. 24

Romans 7:24-25

O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Presently - In the now – this is Paul lamenting his battle with his physical body.

wretched grk: talaiporos
distressed, miserable, alone, without any resources.
employing the imagery of being alone or abandoned at sea.

- - - How can he write this unless he knows the difference
between light and dark. Between good and evil - - -

Moving from the darkness into the light causes details to come into view.
It is in the darkness that most anything looks good because - its true identity
cannot be fully discovered. It is only after the light is turned on that what is
present can be seen for what it truly is.

- *author not important*

"If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has
made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will,
though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any
love or goodness or joy worth having." "Badness cannot succeed even in being
bad in the same way in which goodness is good. Goodness is, so to speak, itself:
badness is only spoiled goodness. Evil is a parasite, not an original thing."

- *C. S. Lewis*

"Who will deliver me?" not what, not how, not me – WHO?

deliver grk: rhuomai
to hoist up or to draw up, to be lifted up, rescued, picked up

Psalm 40:12-13

For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not
able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me. 13 Be
pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me!

Am I Me

We Know to Whom We Belong

3b.) A sinner who is saved

vs. 25a

25a I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

thank grk: eucharisteo
to be being thankful, to be giving thanks, thankful.

When Paul prayed for the Ephesian elders – he did so from the position of confidence and assurance.

The Bible speaks over and over again of the awesome salvation of Jesus Christ

Ephesians 3:14-19

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

The Bible teaches that Salvation is **by** Jesus Christ.
The Bible teaches that Salvation is **of** Jesus Christ
The Bible teaches that Salvation is **for** Jesus Christ
The Bible teaches that Salvation is **in** Jesus Christ
The Bible teaches that Salvation is **through** Jesus Christ

And The Bible teaches that He is Jesus **the Christ**
And The Bible teaches that Salvation that He is Jesus **the Lord**

Am I Me We Know to Whom We Belong

3c.) A sinner who knows the truth

vs. 25b

So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

serve grk: douleuo
to be a slave (to the law), to be enslaved to (the law), in happy bondage, servitude, and slavery (to the law).

!!! WHAT SECURITY THERE IS IN THIS!!!

To the Born-Again child of God

Is sealed internally – (within you) by the Holy Spirit of God who has awakened you to the Law of God in your heart, the heart being the person that you are.

“This ‘with the flesh’ I serve the law of sin”

Verse 25b

but with the flesh the law of sin.

History tells us that from Paul’s own hometown of Tarsus in Cilicia

That the legal punishment for a condemned murderer was to have the body of the deceased (victim) tied to the back of the convicted. Within two weeks the corps would “rot into” the flesh of the murderer resulting in a torturously painful death by infection.

Galatians 6:14

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Psalms 130:1-6

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. 3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning - yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

Luke 15:1-7

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 So Jesus spoke this parable to them, saying: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Whatever the reason - the lamb must be carried by the shepherd

<https://fineartamerica.com/featured/jesus-carrying-lost-sheep-home-melani-pyke.html>

Standing with Hands Lifted High

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword...

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

End of Study

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