

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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

## Romans 7:13-20

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Sunday, January 29, 2023

### THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

**“Am I Me?”**

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.**

I grew up at a time when if you ever saw someone talking to themselves with emotion and gestures and passion with themselves - - you were most likely observing an individual who has either gone insane or were on drugs or maybe both.

I am told (I would not have any firsthand knowledge of this) but I am told - that as people age, they start losing situational awareness, and that they have a tendency to talk to themselves out loud in the presence of others. All of these things can be explained.

It's different today – Just look around while at a stop light or taking a walk – people are carrying on a conversation with emotion and gestures and passion and they too look nuts or drugged until you see ear pods or headphones.

### 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.

## Am I Me?

1.) When it comes to the Law of God

vs. 13

### When It Comes To The Law Of God

Am I Me?

1a.) Let God's Law be Your Judge

vs. 13a

Romans 7:13a

Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not!

Paul draws us back to the purpose of God's Divine Law  
and the giving of the (Ten) Commandments.

Romans 7:7a

What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. The Law is the Great Revealer – Like a Mirror used to show you what you look Like - Yet – you would never use a mirror to wash your face. You would use it to see what blemish is there.

### When It Comes To The Law Of God

Am I Me?

1b.) Let God's Love be Your Assurance

vs. 13b

Romans 7:13b

But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good,

The malignancy of sin has only one cure.

Luke 5:30-32

And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

### When It Comes To The Law Of God

Am I Me?

1c.) Let God's Light be Your Guide

vs. 13c

Romans 7:13c

so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.

### There is Magnified Lighting

It is so important, it is urgent, it is required of you, that you see yourself in light of the Law of God so that EVERYTHING might be EXPOSED.

### There is Mood Lighting

Have you noticed today on some devices, even some rooms will have light adjustment for the mood or for getting ready for the day.

## The “Spotlight” Effect of God’s Law

In this room right now – all of us are in an ambient light source. But if I take a condensed beam of light and I direct it toward you – you are now IN THE LIGHT. – The Law is like this beam - Exposing

Psalm 119: 104-105

Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. 105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## Am I Me?

2.) When it comes to the Reality of Salvation

vs. 14-16

## When It Comes To The Reality Of Salvation

Am I Me?

2a.) Know The Deception of Sin

vs. 14

Romans 7:14

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.

### Like a Lightning Strike,

Paul announces the “Internal Obvious” (The Mirror & Light of God Exposes) Revealing whether or not you possess an Authentic Faith.

#### Carnal

grk: Sar’ki’kos / Sarkos

pertaining to the flesh, the material things of man, the animalistic desires of the base human existence passed on by Adam’s fall.

(S.T.D.) – S.I.N. is a Spiritually Transmitted Disease – THE LIGHT OF THE LAW MAGNIFIES THAT AND THEN THE MIRROR OF THE LAW SHOWS ME.

Every Christian is Constantly Under the Bombardment of Temptation to Sin

Galatians 5:24-25

And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Today – In My Life

I've never been closer to Jesus Christ in my 46 years of knowing Him and let me tell you – I've never been more aware of weakness and my need of His Love and Mercy and Grace – THERE IS A BIG BEAM AS IT WERE UPON ME.

1 John 1:6-2:1

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**When It Comes To The Reality Of Salvation**

Am I Me?

2b.) Know The Believer's Frustration

vs. 15

Romans 7:15

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.

**When It Comes To The Reality Of Salvation**

Am I Me?

2c.) Know The Amazing Grace of God

vs. 16

Romans 7:16

If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.

Truly The Question Must Be Asked, "Am I Me?"  
Only a true Christian, a real Child of God can know this Reality.

# "I Agree with God and His Word"

Meaning – I am a train wreck without Him

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? 10 I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways according to the fruit of his doings.

1 Timothy 1:15

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

## Am I Me?

3.) When it comes to the Identity of the Truth

vs. 17-20

## Am I Me?

### When It Comes To The Identity Of The Truth

Am I Me?

3a.) You are In Him Now

vs. 17

Romans 7:17

But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

How many "You's" do you See in the verse?

There are at least 2 you's here.

There is the New You and there is the Old You.

He is talking about "The Two You's" ya see!

This is a good time to point something out here.

In the original Greek New Testament language of this Scripture reveals a heavily egocentric focus and is top-heavy with personal pronouns.

"MYSELF" 1 time. "MY" 5 times. "ME" 11 times. And "I" is found 33 times.

While never once mentioning nor finding a reference to the Holy Spirit.

There is the Believers Counterculture that is before us.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

To Tell The Truth Video.

There is the dead you = positionally

Colossians 3:3

Therefore you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

There is the living you = prophetically

Romans 6:11

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

There is the sometimes dead you = practically

Colossians 3:5a

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.

**When It Comes To The Identity Of The Truth**

Am I Me?

3b.) You are At War Now

vs. 18

Romans 7:18

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.

Paul makes an obvious yet awesome admission here;

*"For I KNOW that in me (that is in my flesh) nothing good dwells"*

**This is The Believer's On-Going Conflict**

In this new life of ours we have #1 The Word of God to instruct us and #2 We have the power of The Holy Spirit to guide us.

# “For to will is present”

(example “Lord I’m going to do better today” –  
But “Lord I can’t do this unless You do it for me”)

## Jesus Said

### “Truly – the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak

This “For TO WILL is present with me” is proof  
of the Holy Spirit’s Guidance system at work

**Present** grk: parakeimai  
to be beside, be near, almost within reach, present

**Perform** grk: katergazomai  
to bring about, to be carried out, to execute, to do it.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks  
be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:16-18

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts  
against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so  
that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not  
under the law.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

But reject profane and old wives’ fables and exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily  
exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that  
now is and of that which is to come.

## When It Comes To The Identity Of The Truth

Am I Me?

3c.) You are The Proof Now

vs. 19-20

Verse 19

Romans 7:19

For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

You are the  
proof, the evidence, the work, the labor, the God story!

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Verse 20

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.

I thought that as a believer “Jesus Christ” dwells in me?  
(That is absolutely true - but not THE ALL of us has been redeemed yet)

Sin resides in my physical body and so it attacks my emotions, my thoughts,  
and my old desires from the days of my flesh.

## Hang On To Your Seats Now

A hypothetical - - “If Peter, Paul and Mary were walking down a road and Peter tried to kick a tin can off the path but the wind caught it and it flew up and hit Mary in the head – and in that moment Paul reacts by picking up said tin can and plants it firmly in Peter’s face and then calls him an Idiot.

What do we have going on here?

Is **Paul** really a Christian for acting like that?

Is **Peter** a Christian for kicking the tin can into Mary face?

And what about **Mary** - hanging around with either one of these guys?

{Please Do Not Misunderstand Me – Your Christian Life is Not to be One of  
Shoving Tin Cans into People’s Faces and calling them idiots.}

### The Proper Spirit Led Response Is;

#1 - I agree, that was terrible and not Christlike at all. #2 I ask your forgiveness  
because my actions came from the old Jack that was before I met Jesus Christ.

The New Jack does not approve of this conduct – I am dead to me.

This is “The Reckoning” taught in the Bible.

This is “The Doctrine of Sanctification” taught in the Bible.

This is “The Christian Life” as taught in the Bible.

That we are in a sense “The Living Dead”. We are  
“The Crucified yet Resurrected In Christ”.  
This is “The Newness of Life” We read about in  
the New Testament.

What Paul finds from his own experience is *“I discover”* (here in the present tense both now and on-going) *that there is an awareness of a foreign power seeking to rule over me rather than the Law of God. When I want to do what is good there is an evil present within me.”* What is “present” and “ready” for some purpose or action is both the desire to do what is good (v.18) and to do what is evil (v.21) the argument supporting a lurking presence of evil is true and echoes out of Genesis 4:7 where Cain was told *“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”*

*Expositions from the Book of Romans*

- Dr. J. Petersen

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*End of Study*

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