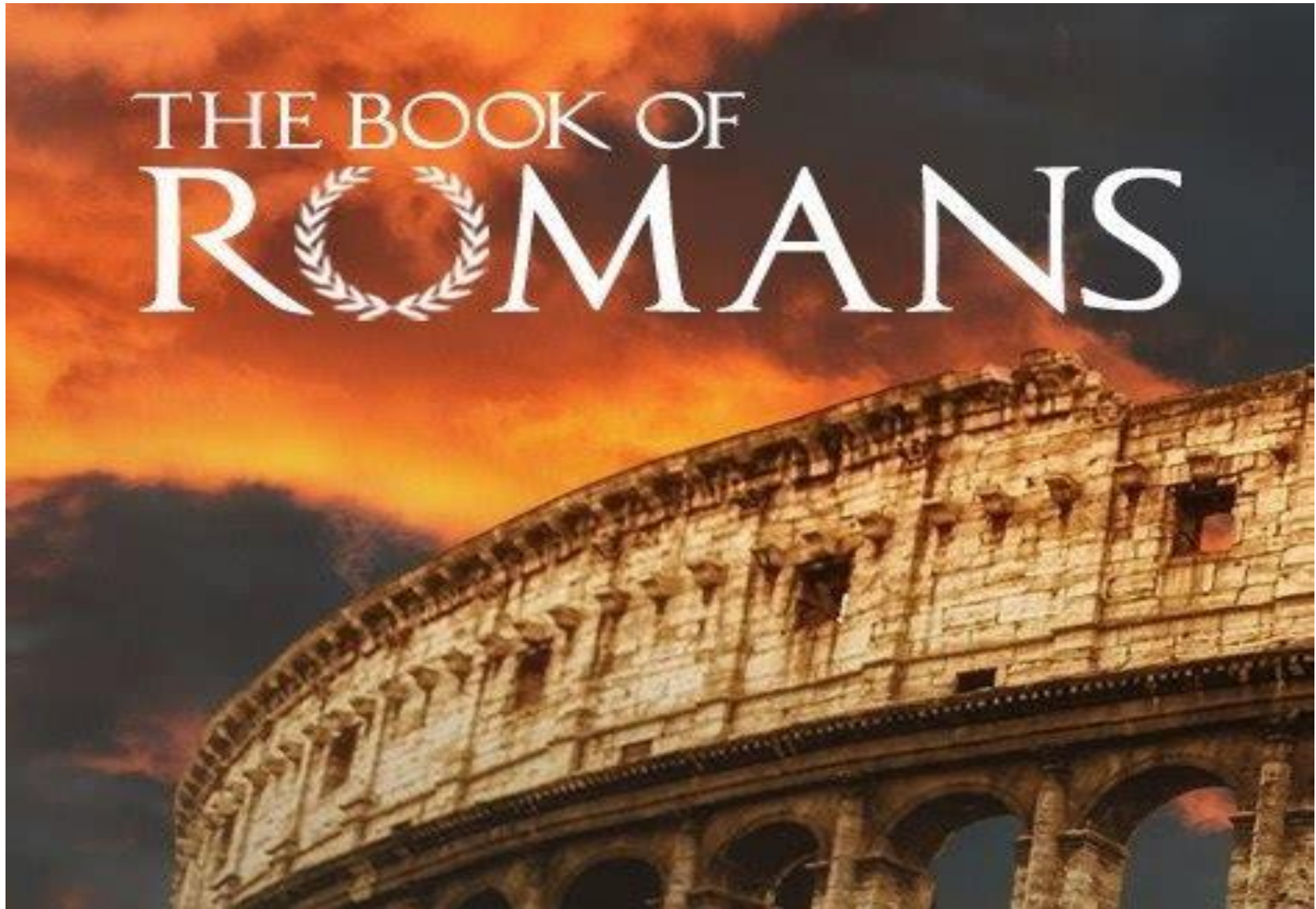


# Rom 7:24-25 Wretched Man I - Who Shall Deliver Me?



## Definition/Important words used in Chp. 7:14-24\*

- Paul's position as a believer: a new creation  
in Christ (2 Cor:5:17)
- Paul uses "I" and "me" to designate this position
- Paul's condition as a believer: but I am carnal  
(Rom 7:14)
- So Paul's condition is carnal even though he is  
a new creation in Christ
- the sin = the sin nature, also called the flesh or  
the evil
- law system – any set rules either from God  
or man

\* edited from H. Molloy

## Overview of Rom 7:14 to 7:24\*



- Three reasons are given why a believer cannot live the Christian life under any law system [or any set of rules]
- Paul uses his own personal account with the commandment “You shall not covet.”
- Paul is speaking here as a representative believer
- **Reason one** – v:14 For we know that the law is spiritual. But as for myself, I am fleshly [carnal], permanently sold under the sinful nature.
- **Reason two** – v:18a I know positively that there does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh, good.
- **Reason three** – v:21 I find then the [law] principle that evil [the sin nature] is present in me, the one who wants to do [the] good.

- **Reason three** – v:21 I find then the [law] principle that evil [the sin nature] is present in me, the one who wants to do [the] good.



- **Proof 1** – v:22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man
  - Even though the law of God via the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind
  - I delight in it because it is holy, righteous and good
  - This inner man is “the new man in Christ” Molloy
- 2 Cor 4:16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.
- **Proof 2** – is given in v: 23 on the next slides

<sup>23</sup> but I see a different law in the members of my body,  
waging war against the law of my mind and making me  
a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.



**but** – *de* – in contrast to “the law of God”

**I see a different law in the members of me**      Interlinear

**I see** - *blepō* - It especially stresses the thought of the  
person who sees (present tense)

- lit: I am continually seeing

This “**different law** or **principle**”?

**different** - *heteros* - expresses a qualitative difference  
and denotes “another of a different sort”

- So “the quality” of this different law will be explained in  
the remainder of the verse

<sup>23</sup> but I see a different law in the members of my body,  
waging war against the law of my mind and making me  
a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.



- this “different law principle” is:

<sup>1st</sup> - in the members of me

**members** - *melos* - since our bodies and their "members" belong to the earth, and are the instruments of sin, they are referred to as such (see Rom 7:5) Vine

- Rom 7:5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in **the members** of our body to bear fruit for death.
- This different law principle is described as “the law principle that evil is present in me” in verse 21



<sup>23</sup> but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.



**2<sup>nd</sup> – waging war against the law of my mind**

**waging war against** - *antistrateúomai* - metaphorically, to war against, oppose (present tense)

**3<sup>rd</sup> - making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members**

**making me a prisoner** - *aichmalōtizō* - to subjugate, to bring under control - lit: capturing (present ten.)

- It can capture us and put us in bondage\*
- It will cause us our deepest heartaches\*
- It is our greatest enemy and it is at enmity with God\*
- Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

\* Molloy

# Today's Verses



<sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.



24 Wretched man *that I am!* Who will set me free  
from the body of this death?



Wretched man, I

Wuest

**wretched** - *talaipōros* - distressed, miserable – originally  
“wretched through the exhaustion of hard labor”

- That’s who Adam is and he will never change Molloy
- So Paul used the same word to describe his condition [as a carnal believer] as Christ did of the church at Laodicea
- Rev 3:17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable [pitiful] and poor and blind and naked.

24 Wretched man *that I am!* Who will set me free from the body of this death?



More thoughts on **Wretched man, I\***

- Our Father knows how wretched and weak we are
- And that we can do nothing [as a believer] without Christ
- The trouble is that we don't believe it !
- So the Father must bring us all to the place where we see that we are totally weak and helpless

**Paul's example in Chp 7:**

- The more Paul tried to keep the Law [redoubled effort]
- The more his weakness and helplessness was manifested

**Believer's example:**

- The more you and I try to live the Christian life [in our own strength] the more our weakness and helplessness is manifested

24 Wretched man *that I am!* Who will set me free



from 2 Cor 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels,  
so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God  
and not from ourselves;

8 *we are* afflicted in every way, but not crushed;  
perplexed, but not despairing;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed

10 always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,  
*so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

- Our Father has to take each of us through a drastic process of self-revelation\*
- He will allow circumstances in our lives that we can't handle and there will be the following from 2 Cor 4:7-10:\*
- *afflicted* – pressed or squeezed by circumstances
- *perplexed* – uncertainty as to how to proceed
- *persecution* – mental – family and friends turn on you
- *struck down* – in a position of apparent helplessness

\* Molloy

<sup>24</sup> Wretched man *that I am!* Who will set me free from the body of this death?



Who shall deliver me

Wuest

**who** - *tis* - interrogative pronoun in the Greek text is masculine, indicating a person

- Paul cries for help to a person [God Himself]
- It's not a "What" or "How"\*
- It's not a cry for a formula or prescription so that he can release himself\*
- Paul realizes (conviction by Holy Spirit) that the self-life can never make him free\*

\* Molloy

**shall deliver** - *rhyomai* - to rescue from, preserve from  
lit: set me free (future tense)

- Paul will next tell us what he wants to be freed from:

24 Wretched man *that I am!* Who will set me free  
from the body of this death?



from [ek] – out of  
the body

- The body here = Paul's physical body\*
- Paul's body [as a carnal Christian] has been captivated by the sin nature\*
- We see that in Rom 7:23 but I see a different law in the members of my body - making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.

of this death

death = separation; this death = the separation between\*

- From the context it is between the law of God and the law of the sin nature

\* Molloy

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.



Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

- Now we have the answer to Paul's cry to be delivered
- So the “**who**” is now identified as God the Father
- But it is through [*dia*] Jesus Christ our Lord
- So Paul is thanking the Father for deliverance from the power of the indwelling sin nature\*

So how is Paul (or any believer) delivered from the power of the sin nature?\*

**Answer:** In our identification with Christ and His death unto the sin nature\*

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.



- So I thank God (for deliverance) through Jesus Christ:\*
- Who died unto the sin nature
- Who took me up on the cross with Him
- So that I also died unto the sin nature
- Now I reckon myself to be dead indeed unto the sin nature but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord

Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with [taken offline], so that we would no longer be slaves to [the] sin.

Rom 6:10 For the death that He died, He died to [the] sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. \*Molloy



<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am  
serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh  
the law of sin.



So then – Paul now gives some concluding remarks

- In a **point** [*men*] then **counterpoint** [*de*] construction

**point** - on the one hand – *men*

I [Paul] **myself**

- Now tells us of two contrasting possibilities within himself

with “my mind” am serving the law of God

**serving** - *douleuō* - to serve as a doulos [bond servant]  
(present tense – cont. action)

- This verb tense is key to our understanding

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!  
So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am  
serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh  
the law of sin.



with “my mind” am serving the law of God (cont.)

- so Paul says, I can be continually captivated in “my mind” by the law [will] of God (Chp 8 will tell us that this is only possible by the Holy Spirit) Molloy

counterpoint - but on the other [hand] - *de*

with “my flesh” [am serving] the law of sin

- But I also can be continually captivated in “my flesh” the (principle) of the sin nature Molloy
- This can be the experience of a believer at any time in his Christian life when he tries to please God in his own strength Merryman

# Final Thoughts\*



- Paul showed in Chp. 7 that there was absolutely no power in any law system to enable a believer to live the Christian life
- In fact Paul showed that it was impossible for any believer in and of himself by the will of the mind to do anything that was good
- In Chp. 8 Paul will show that the dynamic for living the Christian life and performing divine good is the result of the work of the indwelling Holy Spirit through the Spirit-controlled believer
- Paul will now set forth the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit as opposed to lack of power from any law system

\* edited Molloy