

## **THANKS BE TO GOD FOR JESUS (Romans 7:13-25)**

### **I. The design of the Law (vs. 13-14).**

- A. Paul deals with another hypothetical question as he has throughout this book.
- B. Did the law that God put into effect cause death?
  - 1. The view of this question is that Satan used the Law to tempt people to sin.
  - 2. Since he used it to tempt people to sin, could it be said that the Law caused death?
- C. Paul answer with his classic answer of God forbid.
- D. The law was there to keep people from sinning by letting the Jew know what sin was.
  - 1. The only problem was that it provided no remedy for sin.
  - 2. One could not get forgiveness or be justified under the Old Law.
  - 3. It, rather, reminded them of their sins all the time.
- E. The Old Law did let people know how evil sin was and that was its design.
- F. Satan used that law, and he does today as well, to entice people to sin by encouraging the rebellious streak that is in all mankind.
- G. The Law was spiritual, from God, but man is carnally minded.
- H. We become slaves to sin, which Paul already pointed out in chapter 6.
- I. As Whiteside said, "Sin is here personified, and Paul represents himself as having been sold to sin as a slave. But if he referred to his past experience, why did he use the present tense? Because he was merely speaking of himself as a type of all who were under the bondage of sin."
- J. The Law was spiritual because it tried to reach in and change the heart of the Jews.
  - 1. However, despite one's best efforts, no one could keep it perfectly.
  - 2. Because of being carnal minded, it was impossible, and a devout Jew realized he was always under the burden of sin.

### **II. The desire to do good (vs. 15-23).**

- A. Paul now goes into a lengthy description of the desire to do good that was present in the heart of one who was really trying to follow the Mosaic Law.
- B. The truly spiritual things that one would want to do aren't done because sin has such a strong hold.
  - 1. They were guilty of the sins of omission and commission.
  - 2. There was no remedy for sin.
  - 3. They knew the law was good because it pointed out their sins and things they should avoid, but because there was no way to be justified under it, they became overwhelmed by the burden of sin.
- C. Our weakness allows sin to dwell in us and we allow ourselves to give into it and allow sin to take over instead of battling as we should.
- D. Verses 18 and 19 are a lot like what Jesus said to the apostles when they fell asleep while He prayed: "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."
  - 1. One writer said that the flesh is like a dollar bill in that it is not

- 2. morally good or evil.
- 3. It is bent towards being satisfied and the inner man has to control it.
- 3. The inner man has to learn how to control the appetites of the flesh and will be held responsible for doing so.
- E. Without a means of being justified the inner man loses control and sin takes over.
- F. The inward man knows that doing God's will is best but there is that sinful desire trying to take over.
- G. When one feels there is no hope for forgiveness, no matter how good something may be, sin will take over.
- H. What this language that Paul was inspired to use shows us is the helplessness of someone in sin and without Christ.

### **III. The deliverance of Jesus (vs. 24-25).**

- A. The one who is battling in his mind with sin and striving to do right but only constantly has his sin pointed out to him feels like a wretch.
- B. Again, could you imagine waking up every day knowing that you could not keep the law?
  - 1. You knew you had sinned and were going to sin again.
  - 2. You had to deal with this knowing there was no way to be justified by God under the Law you served.
- C. No doubt you would cry out for salvation when you realized you needed it.
- D. Paul then gives us the source of salvation: Thanks be to God because of Jesus Christ.
  - 1. In this entire section, the Deliverer had been kept in the shadows.
  - 2. Paul had been leading the discussion to this point from the very beginning.
  - 3. We have to have Jesus Christ because the Old Law can't save and never could save.
  - 4. It was not designed to do so.
- E. Now we can serve Jesus with our minds, controlling ourselves with that inner man.
- F. When we do sin, which we all do from time to time, it is because the flesh takes over.
- G. The only difference is, we can obtain forgiveness now by repenting as the Law of God tells us to do.