

Why Is Doing Right a Struggle?

Dr. William E. Bell

Scripture Basic: Romans 7:1-25

Focal: Romans 7:5-6, 13-25

Outline:

II. What God Has Done for Man: Justification by Faith (1:18-11:36)

A. What It Is (1:18-5:21)

B. How It Affects Conduct (6:1-8:39)

1. Is it OK to sin because sin begets grace? (6:1-14)

2. Is it OK to sin because we are not under the Law, which prohibits sin?

(1:15-8:39)

a. What "not under the Law" does not mean: a license to sin (6:15-23)

b. What "not under the Law" does mean: a higher degree of morality (7:1-6)

(1) The legitimacy of the 2nd marriage (7:1-4a)

(2) The fruitfulness of the 2nd marriage (7:4b-6)

c. Answer to the seeming disparagement of the Law (7:7-25)

(1) Is the Law sin? (7:7-12)

(a) Answer: No! (7:7a)

(b) Proof (7:7b-12)

(2) Does the Law tend toward death? (7:13-25)

(a) Answer: No! (7:13)

(b) Proof (7:14-25)

1. Intrinsic nature of Law vs. human beings

(7:14)

2. Experiential struggle of the conscience

(approving the Law) vs. the flesh

(controlled by sin) (7:15-23)

3. The resulting crisis and the deliverance

(7:24-25a)

4. Summary of the section (7:25b)

Applications:

1. The Mosaic Law was for the nation of Israel only, covering the period from Mt. Sinai to the cross, and was given (a) as a constitution for the nation Israel, (b) to demonstrate Israel's critical need of righteousness (Romans 3:20) and to prepare the way for the coming of that salvation in Christ.

2. Christians today are not under the Mosaic Law (not under any part of it), and any attempt to place us under the Law is legalism and should be resisted (Galatians 5:1).

3. Freedom from the Law (contrary to popular opinion) should not produce lawlessness in Christians - but should rather produce a mature, Spirit-led relationship to God as befitting adult sons in His family.