

**Bible Study of Romans**  
**Romans 7:12-25**

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### **Introduction**

Paul has given insight into how our corrupted hearts respond when God presses home His law. The effect is not a quieting down of the sinful nature but a stirring of it into fierce resistance. Paul shared that particularly the tenth commandment became his main obstacle. Paul was not necessarily stirred to covet his neighbor's house, wife, servants but his trouble was deeper. He discovered that covetousness itself is sin. Covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5).

Manson said truthfully, "Paul's autobiography is the biography of Everyman." However, this reaction of our fallen human nature was not caused by the law itself. The law pressed home formed the occasion for the fierce reaction of our sinful nature.

### Discussion Questions:

1. 'Holy, just and good' are three descriptive words of the law. How are we to define each so that we will have a deeper appreciation for the law?
2. Since the keeping of the law is the greatest promoter of human happiness, should that fruit be the main goal of our keeping of the law?
3. Paul described earlier how the law made him die (vs. 9-10) and then he added that sin become more sinful, exceeding sinful. How does that work? What does that mean for us in evangelizing the lost, whether in church or out of church settings?
4. Does everyone who is arrested by the law of God experience this reaction of his own sinful heart?
5. "Since the law is spiritual, we don't have to be concerned about the outward details but only about the heart. We only need to be concerned that we obey the law of God spiritually." Comment on this assertion.
6. In the last section of this chapter, there is a vital change to notice in Paul's use of the 'verbs.' What is the change and why is this so important to notice?
7. How can Paul say that he *is* carnal now that he an upright believer in and follower of the Lord Jesus Christ?
8. "To be sold under sin" sounds like he is still in bondage. But doesn't that contradict what he wrote in chapter 6:18, "Being made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness?"

9. A born-again soul continues to struggle with indwelling sin as outlined in verses 15-23. Is it correct to say that a true Christian is a two-man, or lives in two worlds? If not, how will explain this to a new believer who feels confused about the presence of their sinful heart after having come to faith?
10. What would be some of things Paul wanted still to do and yet didn't do?
11. Re-read verses 16-20 again. Is Paul somewhat excusing or explaining himself? What does Paul's explanation about this spiritual reality mean to you? Is this comforting, reassuring, enlightening?
12. Define what Paul means with 'law' in vs. 21 and 23?
13. Is this cry the wail of a lost soul under conviction or the cry of a saved soul?
14. Paul ended this biographical sketch with a triumphant tone, in vs. 25a. What made him suddenly exclaim this?

Haldane concluded, "Beyond this no child of God can go while in this world; it will ever remain the character of the regenerate man. Paul serves God although he is compelled to acknowledge that the power of the old man within him still subsists and exerts itself, while it is his earnest desire daily to put him off. In every believer, and in no one else, there are these two principles, sin and grace, flesh and spirit, the law of the members and the law of the mind. This may be perverted by the opposers of Divine truth into a handle against the Gospel, and by the hypocrite to excuse his sin. But it gives ground to neither. It is the truth of God and the experience of every Christian.

15. How has this chapter personally helped or comforted you?