



8/19/25

*I find it interesting that sin is talked about like it's a living being in this passage... like it's the serpent in the Garden of Eden. It taunts us with lies and then shames us when we fall into its trap. But praise the Lord, our God is greater! You and I can't overcome sin's deception on our own... but the Lord has put His Spirit in us who helps us overcome when we cry out to Him for help. You know how people say, "Holler if you need me"? Well, I pray that you and I will do a lot of hollering to the Lord today, because we ALWAYS need Him... we can trust that He ALWAYS answers. Psalm 118:5-6 says, "Out of my distress I cried out to the Lord. The Lord answered me and set me free. The Lord is on my side. What can man do to me?" Amen!!!*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Romans 7:7-14 ~*

*There is a lot of discussion about Romans 7. Is Paul talking about life before Christ? Or life as a Christian. I believe he's talking about life as a Christian because he's speaking about the desire to obey God and the struggle of living that out. An unbeliever doesn't have that same struggle.*

*When Paul was a Pharisee, one of the most prestigious religious leaders among the Jews, he didn't have an ounce of guilt when he persecuted Christians... but once he was saved, he struggled to wholeheartedly obey God. I KNOW that struggle in my own life!!! It is a constant battle between my flesh and my spirit, and a constant surrender to the Lord as I cry out to Him for help! With that in mind, I look to see what I can learn from today's passage.*

*Vs. 7-8 ~ So... in light of the fact that I have been set free from the law through the body of Christ, does that mean that the law is sin? Do I throw it out altogether? No... the law is not sin. Vs. 12 tells me that "the law is holy and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."*

*But what the law does do is it reveals my sinful drift toward sin. The law does not cause me to sin, but it does show me my sin. If the law says, "You're not allowed to covet, to have a passionate desire for something the Lord has not given," all the sudden I become blatantly*

*conscious of the things I don't have... and I start either complaining or plotting to figure out how to get what I want. Sin seizes an opportunity when it sees the rule and then produces in me all kinds of frustrations over what I don't have.*

*It's not that I didn't want those things before... it's just that I wasn't aware that I shouldn't want those things. I "should" trust the Lord to provide everything I need and believe that He only withholds things to protect me from drifting away from Him. I don't NEED the thing... I NEED Him.*

*Sin is an evil beast. It is like the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were perfectly fine not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sin, like the serpent, grabs on to the rule and uses it to point to what we don't have, and then raises questions about God's goodness and love... Then the sin comes alive in me... and I fall prey to it.*

*The serpent of sin doesn't bother me when I'm not aware of the commandment. It doesn't need to. I find it very interesting and frustrating that the strategy of sin is to entice me to break the rule and then condemn and shame me when I do. I also know that "the devil made me do it" is not a valid excuse. The devil is always trying to lure and entice me to sin... but he doesn't hold a gun to my head. I make the choice. I'm so thankful for vs. 24 that says, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"*

*Vs. 9-12 ~ Vs. 9 is confusing. Paul said, "I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died." Basically, he wasn't aware that he was doing anything wrong. He had no perception of punishment for any wrongdoing... until the commandment exposed his desire... and that's when he died... that's when he became aware of his need for a Savior. I imagine the road to Damascus was the first time he realized how horrifically he had broken God's law... when Jesus spoke to him from heaven and said, "Saul, Saul (his Hebrew name), why are you persecuting ME?"*

*Before his awareness of the law, it seemed like a great concept. Do what it says and you will earn eternal life. That seems really promising! But... the inability to obey it perfectly proved to be death to Paul (and to me). The serpent of sin did not sit idle when the law was made clear. It deceived Paul (and me), as is its purpose, and killed Paul (and me). The law is not the problem! I am the problem. God's law is good. It reveals the heart of God. Every law and commandment of His is holy... pure, righteous, not evil... and good FOR me and FOR all of us, not leading us to destruction.*

*Sin wraps its tentacles around what is good, preys on my selfish desires, and brings death. Praise the Lord, the story does not end there!!!*

*Vs. 13-14 ~ So... even though the law is good, did it cause my death? Can I blame the law for my death? No... sin is the problem. Sin takes what's good and twists it in order to get me to sin. Then when sin takes hold, it spreads like a wildfire so that it can take over everything. No one*

*can just stay in one place with sin. If I let it take root, it spreads and takes over... and then I find myself asking the question, "How did I get here?" I got "here" by giving in to the deception of sin twisting the law to get me in its grasp. The law is spiritual. Sin connects the spiritual law with my earthly flesh to deceive and destroy... so that I am sold under sin.*

*What a terrible place to stop reading!!! It sounds so hopeless!!! And yet I know, if the story ever sounds hopeless with God, the story isn't over. Praise the Lord... sin doesn't have to have dominion over me because, as a believer, I am not under sin, I'm under grace. Thank You so much, Father. My destiny WOULD be so hopeless if You had not made a way for me to be delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of Your beloved Son, in whom I have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Colossians 1:13-14). Please help me to live in the gratitude of Your grace rather than under the clutches of sin that I have been set free from. Jesus, You are NOTHING like the deception of sin. You are sacrificial, loving, full of mercy and grace... and You have freed me from sin's tyranny. Praise Your name.*