

DO NOT BE FOOLED

Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”*

1 John 1:10, *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*



Be not deceived; God is not mocked:
for whatsoever a man soweth,
that shall he also reap.
— Galatians 6:7 —

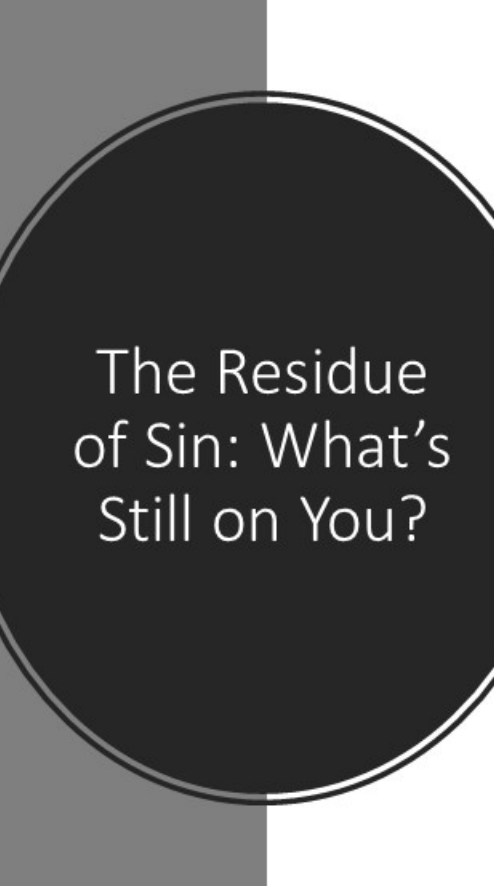
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Sin





The Residue
of Sin: What's
Still on You?



R E S I D U E

The Cambridge dictionary defines *residue* as, “the part that is left after the main part has gone or been taken away.”



OUTLINE

I. The *purpose* and *character* of the law

(vs. 13) The law exposes and magnifies sin

(vs. 14) The spiritual law cannot restrain
carnal man

II. The *struggle* of obedience in our *own* strength

(vss. 15-19) Paul describes his sense of helplessness

(vss. 20-23) The battle between two selves

III. The *victory* found in Jesus Christ

(vs. 24) Paul's desperation and perspective

(vs. 25) Paul finally looks outside of himself to Jesus

"For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us, and our wishes are never free from their pressures."



Romans 7:13 (tPt)

So, did something meant to be good become death to me?
Certainly not! It was not the law but sin unmasked that produced my spiritual death. The sacred commandment merely uncovered the evil of sin so it could be seen for what it is.



God's Law

The Law is the sum total of God's requirements and expectations for man's behavior, words, and attitude, and to turn aside from them or rebel against them is sin.



Romans 7:14 (tPt)

For we know that the law is divinely inspired and comes from the spiritual realm, but I am a human being made of flesh and trafficked as a slave under sin's authority.



Romans 7:15-19 (tPt)

15I'm a mystery to myself, for I want to do what is right, but end up doing what my moral instincts condemn. 16And if my behavior is not in line with my desire, my conscience still confirms the excellence of the law. 17And now I realize that it is no longer my true self doing it, but the unwelcome intruder of sin in my humanity. 18For I know that nothing good lives within the flesh of my fallen humanity. The longings to do what is right are within me, but willpower is not enough to accomplish it. 19My lofty desires to do what is good are dashed when I do the things I want to avoid.



Helplessness





DISCOMBOBULATED

Romans 7:20-23 (tPt)

20So if my behavior contradicts my desires to do good, I must conclude that it's not my true identity doing it, but the unwelcome intruder of sin *hindering me from being who I really am*. 21Through my experience of this principle, I discover that even when I want to do good, evil is ready to sabotage me. 22Truly, deep within my true identity, I love to do what pleases God. 23But I discern another power operating in my humanity, waging a war against the moral principles of my conscience and bringing me into captivity as a prisoner to the "law" of sin—this unwelcome intruder in my humanity.



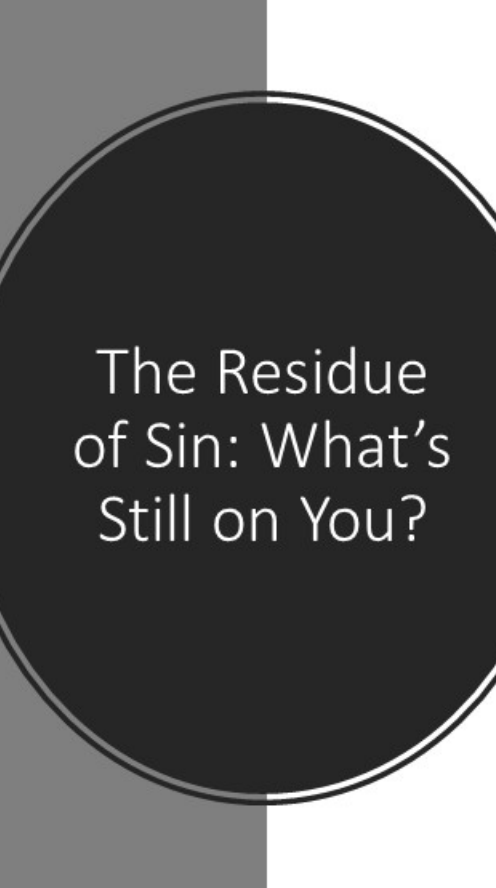


The Two Selves of You

God's law does not produce sin;
it only names it for what it is.



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