



Paul's Behavior Problem: The Local Church Is the only Source of Spiritual Growth; Language Is God's System of Communicating His Thoughts to Man

46. Until such a believer submits to the teaching authority of a doctrinal pastor production of honorable achievements will be impossible.

Romans 7:18 - In fact, I know [οἶδα, oida] that in me (that is [εἰμί, eimi], in my flesh) there does not reside [οικέω, oikēō] any good thing of intrinsic value; for the consistent desire [θέλω, thelō] is always present [παράκειμαι, parakeimai] in me but the honorable accomplishment [κατεργάζομαι, katergazomai] is habitually not [in me].

47. Summary of Romans 7:18:

1. Paul has present within him the desire to do the will of God. However, when a believer is short on doctrine his volition can only link up with emotion and it makes him one of the most dangerous creatures around: a sincere Christian.
2. Paul's conundrum is that he desires to do good but the good he desires to do doesn't occur.
3. To dramatize this problem he takes the verb for accomplishing divine good—*katergazomai*—and turns it into a noun.
4. The problem is that Paul's desire—*thelō*—is a consistent volitional motivation but without doctrine the volition is neutralized by the allurements of the *agent provocateurs*.
5. Thus Paul desires to make the right decisions but is prevented from doing so due to a low inventory of doctrinal ideas.
6. This creates the problem faced by all sincere but ignorant believers: volition without doctrine is frustrated.
7. Therefore, attempts to please God, serve Him, or perform divine good without guidance from doctrine become exercises in wood, hay, and stubble.
8. This is how the believer who desires to produce divine good often becomes involved in human good and evil.
9. God is organized. The order of the universe, which is His creation, proves this. We have just observed how the behavior of ichneumon wasps illustrates the horror of the sinful nature's successful capture of the believer's soul.
10. Thought is catalogued in the brain and this magnificent organ-computer is another example of divinely designed order.
11. This order is apparent from the very moment of birth. In fact, the cerebral cortex of the newborn child comes preequipped with the ability to process and communicate language.
12. You will remember this quote from one of the neurologists that we have referenced in our study:

Thompson, Richard F. "Language, Consciousness, and the Brain." Chap. 12 in *The Brain: A Neuroscience Primer*. 2d ed. (New York: W. H. Freeman and Co., 1993), 391; 389:

All languages, from English to obscure dialects, have the same degree of complexity and similar general properties. It is as though humans came into the world equipped with a well-elaborated, complex, and biologically determined language system. In short, it would seem that we may have speech and language centers in the brain that are in some way predetermined or preprogrammed.

Language is the ... one species-typical behavior that sets humans completely apart from all other animals. (p. 389)



13. Why is this true? Those who teach the theology of evolution would have us believe that thoughtless and mindless globs of protoplasm “naturally selected” an intricate system of billions of neurons and trillions of synapses containing Wernicke’s area to handle semantics and Broca’s area to process syntax so that it could understand a language which did not exist.
14. Only a population of dumbed-down dufuses would believe such silly sophistry!
15. The reason language is the “one species-typical behavior” that sets humans completely apart from all other animals is because we are the only animal to whom God wishes to communicate.
16. God is organized! And God organized a system by which He could communicate His thoughts to us by means of the grammatical precision of language.
17. Jesus Christ created the prototype biological life of Adam and Ishah which included the intricately organized cerebral cortex including “predetermined and preprogrammed speech and language centers.”