

### III. The Battle of Wheel-tracks (Romans 7:22-25): Introduction

#### Romans 7:22

##### Introduction

Paul concludes the third paragraph of Romans 7 by stating his discovery of a principle of evil within him. From this Paul introduces the fourth paragraph with the proposition that the principle of inner evil can only be overridden by a counter principle of inner good. That there are two sets of competing principles functional within the life of the believer establishes the presence of an inner conflict. Since each set manifests itself through thought, decision, and action, then the battle must take place within the soul.

The soul is made up of self-consciousness. Awareness of self is required before objective evaluation of thought can be accomplished. Soul essence also includes mentality, made up of what the Bible calls the *nous*, the processing center which takes incoming data and makes it understandable intellectually, or academically.

Further, the mentality also contains what the Bible refers to as the *kardia*, the processing center which takes academic understanding and stores it into long-term memory traces within the brain.

As far as information from the physical world is concerned, simple human IQ is adequate to process this information. Evaluation of worldly knowledge is influenced by the inner presence of the sinful nature and its trends of sin, human good, and evil.

In order to counteract this influence, God has provided man with access to divine truth by means of the completed canon of Scripture. However, this access demands that one possesses the proper credentials, the “*keys to the kingdom of heaven*,” so to speak.

The key to access is faith alone in Christ alone which initiates the imputation of divine operating assets designed to reveal to the believer divine truth. The most important of these assets as far as discernment of divine truth is concerned are the filling of the Holy Spirit and the Grace Apparatus for Perception. Through these two power options, antidotes to trends of sin, human good, and evil may be developed.

Knowledge of divine truth becomes God’s inside agent which enables the believer to withstand the assaults of the first husband and execute the Christian way of life. Therefore, the inner conflict discovered by Paul takes place in the soul and the artillery for each side is thought—human viewpoint versus divine viewpoint.

Both the Holy Spirit and the sinful nature take up their headquarters in the body. At the moment of spiritual birth, the struggle for control of the soul begins and it rages unabated until physical death, or the rapture, whichever comes first.

In order for the believer to serve God, honor Christ, and execute the Christian way of life, he must acquire divine thought in order to offset the principle of evil within him. This divine thought is classified in Romans 7:22 as “*God’s law*,” or “*God’s principles*.” We have also referred to this as “*divine thought*,” “*divine truth*,” and “*divine viewpoint*”—Bible doctrine resident in the soul.

The verse begins with the post positive conjunctive particle used to express reason: *gar* - “*for*” + the present passive indicative of the verb: *sunedomai* - lit. “*to enjoy with others*.”

**“For, along with other believers, I delight...”**

present - Customary; denotes what habitually occurs or what may be reasonably expected to occur.

Paul takes a moment away from using himself to illustrate the lifestyle of the carnal believer. In this verse Paul states the mental attitude which is reasonably expected of the believer who is positive to doctrine. Such a believer is to habitually delight, along with other positive believers, at having God’s principles resident in his soul. It is customary for this attitude of delight to be a facilitated wheel-track in the brain of a positive believer.

passive - Deponent; passive in form but active in meaning. Paul, who in this verse represents himself as a positive believer with doctrine resident in his soul, produces the attitude of delight.

indicative - Potential of obligation.