

Romans 7:22 Summary, The Minefield of Human Experience

Paul is saying that through this daily renewal he has acquired Bible doctrine in his inner man. He refers to the soul with emphasis on the stream of consciousness. Divine truth metabolized by the Holy Spirit is stored by means of His divine power into long-term memory traces in the brain's cerebral cortex.

Please note that in Romans 7:21 Paul discovered a “*principle of evil.*” In Romans 7:22, he makes reference to “*principles of God.*”

Principles are norms and standards which influence decision making and problem solving, and which govern conduct and behavior. Therefore, since the battle for control of your life takes place in the soul, it again comes down to volition. To which authority do you submit? The Law of Evil, or the Law of God?

Kenneth Wuest has this comment to make regarding Paul's dilemma:

Wuest, Kenneth, Romans, 124

Paul does not see in his nature two normal modes in which certain forces operate: he sees two authorities saying to him, Do this, and the higher succumbing to the lower. As the lower prevails, it leads him captive to the law of sin which is in his members.

Dr. Wuest then quotes Peter in:

2 Peter 2:19b - ...by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. He then concludes by saying: The end therefore is that man as a creature of flesh, living under law, does what sin enjoins. It is the law of sin to which he gives obedience.

Romans 7:22 indicates that Paul has made spiritual advance since his days of confusion. Yet he has identified the sources of inner conflict and the battlefield on which it is fought.

The Holy Spirit vies continually with the first husband for control over the soul of the believer. The strategic victory has been won at the cross and at regeneration. However, the tactical victories of the Angelic Conflict are still to be fought out in the souls of believers. Only doctrine resident in the stream of consciousness can resolve the conflict in favor of the believer.

Romans 7:22 - For, along with other believers, I delight in God's principles in the soul.

Without knowledge of doctrine, there is not much of an inner conflict in the believer's soul. Without knowledge of doctrine there is no inventory of divine viewpoint available to challenge the temptations of the sinful nature. God's principles in the soul eventuate in the believer fulfilling God's plan for his life as well as acquiring the capacity for blessings in time and eternity.

The odyssey undertaken by the believer between the moment of salvation and his physical death involves a journey through the minefield of human experience. You cannot make the advance from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity without the capability to make good decisions from a position of strength and the capacity to solve your problems from an inventory of divine truth.

We are going to illustrate after we complete Romans 7, the challenge of heading off into the unknown armed only with an inventory of ideas and a stated objective.

Paragraph 4 of our study will highlight the adventures of George Champlin Sibley, a Missouri frontiersman who headed the government's team of surveyors that blazed the Santa Fé Trail. They knew where they were going: Santa Fé. They knew the mechanics of how to get there. But when they left Fort Osage, Missouri, they had no idea of precisely what route they would travel. If we use their journey as an illustration of the Christian walk and designate their arrival in Santa Fé as the attainment of spiritual maturity, then a question emerges if we are to attempt a successful mission: Do you know the way to Santa Fé?

Whenever you enter into an adventure which takes you into the unknown, you are ill advised to begin your journey without knowing what you are doing. In order to get where you are going you must understand principles of survival, the potentiality of attack, the source of logistics, and be willing to orient and adjust to constantly changing circumstances.

You cannot start out ignorant, run into problems, and hope to endure without any means of survival, self-defense, or mental flexibility. Tragically, most believers go nowhere after salvation. Although they spend their lives trying to get to Santa Fé, they never get much past Kansas City.