

Romans 7:22-Summary; Romans 7:23, Battle of Wheel-tracks Envisioned

Arrival at one's spiritual Santa Fé demands knowledge of Bible doctrine in order to combat the attacks of the sinful nature. The battleground is the soul and the battle is won by means of the two power options.

If while on your quest you have to constantly ask what to do next, i.e., "When thus and so happens should I do this or should I do that?" then your spiritual life will become an anfractuous journey of confusion, frustration, and failure.

The advance to spiritual maturity can only be accomplished under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit utilizing metabolized doctrine in the soul. If you delight in the principles of God, then you will be able to apply doctrine under pressure, innovate in the face of changing circumstances, and combat the inner temptations of your first husband to become a defector.

Doctrine defines sin and exposes human good and evil into the clear light of day. To get to Santa Fé you must adjust to God's agenda. This means the ability to work toward simultaneous objectives:

1. The ultimate objective: arrival at spiritual maturity (or Santa Fé), and
2. The immediate objective: getting from one day to the next (or, from point A to point B).

The biggest obstacle on the trip is the enemy within, the sinful nature which offers unrelenting opposition every step of the way. All opposition has one purpose in mind, to keep you from reaching your stated objective. The objective of the sinful nature is to prevent you from either learning about your logistics and problem-solving devises, or neutralizing your ability to utilize what you know.

Principle: Anything that keeps you from learning doctrine is a distraction.

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

ROMANS 7:23 - "The Battle of Wheel-tracks Envisioned"

The verse begins with the post positive conjunctive particle used to connect one clause with another with the intent of showing contrast. The previous clause, found in Romans 7:22, emphasizes God's principles in Paul's soul. This is brought into contrast with a principle which Paul discovered during his period of carnality. This discovery is introduced by the present active indicative of the verb: *blepo* - "to see."

present - Aoristic; shows punctiliar action in present time presenting an event as now occurring.

It is impossible for the believer to identify error in his own life until he inculcates divine norms and standards into the conscience. Once truth is known then error can be identified and dealt with.

Volition is challenged to defend the soul by submitting to wheel-tracks of righteousness or to succumb to the temptations of the sinful nature and commit wheel-tracks of wickedness.

In Romans 7:22 Paul says he habitually delights in having God's principles in his soul. This is submission to divine authority made known by means of the imperative moods of Scripture. This is the ultimate source of authority which we have often observed in the believer's chain of command while in status quo spirituality. This authority issues orders to every believer and include mandates to utilize the three spiritual skills:

The power source for executing the Christian way of life:

Ephesians 5:18b - ... be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The enlightenment process by which divine thought is inculcated:

2 Peter 3:18 - Grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The development and application of the problem-solving devices:

2 Timothy 2:15 - Perform your due diligence in order to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the world of truth.

Doctrine is what enables Paul “to see” the problem at a moment in time and to ultimately apply the proper solution. What he sees is the presence of sin, human good, and evil as a principle working within his members.

active - Paul uses himself as the illustration for the discovery of the inner conflict. indicative - Declarative; reality, therefore a principle of fact.

The principle which is to be brought into contrast is stated next and is introduced by the accusative singular adjective: *heteros* - “another of a different kind.” That which is different from God’s principles must be identified as the enemy of truth. Again, we see the world for “law” used to identify a principle: *nomos* - “principle.” This word can be used to describe the Mosaic Law, the Laws of Divine Establishment, or an established norm or standard. The latter case is in view here.

This different kind of principle is associated not with the invisible essence of Paul’s soul but the material essence of his body. This is brought out by the prepositional phrase: *en* + the locative of source from the noun *melos* and the pronoun *ego* - “in my members”

Μελοσ

always refers to the body and when behavior patterns associated with the sinful nature are in view its emphasis is on the neurons of the brain in general and the genetic structure of their DNA in particular.

In order to distinguish this technicality, we will translate as follows: “But I see a different principle in my body parts (brain) ...”

This different principle which is in opposition to God’s principles is said to be: *antistrateuomai* - “campaign; expedition.”