

What Is The Christian Walk(Pt.2)

1. Before he was saved and “in the flesh,” Paul was a Jew under the Law. He thought that he would use the Law to restrain his sinful desires. But what actually happened and what Paul’s and Israel’s 1500 years under the Law demonstrated once-and-for-all, was that Sin wrestled the Law away and used it for its own purposes: magnifying, multiplying and energizing sin. (Rom. 7:4-6).
2. Then God separated Paul from the Law and related to him “without the Law” at the time He saved Paul and gave Him his distinct apostleship of Grace with its Gospel of Grace, beginning the new Mystery Program for the Body of Christ—apart from Israel and her Law. (Rom. 7:8-10 with Rom. 3:21)

3. When Paul was relating to God on the basis of Grace, operating according to the Person of Christ and His Work on the Cross, empowered by the Spirit and Agape Love, sin had no power over him and he was alive in his walk and service to God, not responding to sin but to God.
(Rom. 7:8-9)

4. THE EXTERNAL VIEW: But when he took his eyes off the Person and Work of Christ and tried to do God's things based on his own person and work, the Law entered, shined a spotlight into his sinful flesh, waking up sin, exposing all manner of covetous and prideful desires, deceiving him into thinking he was doing things for God when he was really just doing them for himself, which brought guilt and condemnation and Paul died to the walk and service that pleases God.(Rom. 7:9-10)

DISTANT PAST:

Paul was unsaved, in the flesh, a Jew born under the Law, under sin and death in the flesh.

Rom. 7

Paul relating to God from the sinful flesh with the Law: Sin revived, he died (in his Christian walk).

RECENT PAST:

Paul was saved, in the Spirit, without the Law and under Grace that led to Righteousness and Life.

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IN THE PRESENT:

Walk in Reliance on self and one's own resources?
Or, walk in reliance on God and His resources by faith?

FUTURE:

Paul needed to return to Christ and His Cross as God's new creation under Grace that leads to Righteousness and Life.

Rom. 8

Paul relating to God from the Spirit where righteousness resides, under Grace: Sin died, he is alive (in his Christian walk).

5. THE INTERNAL VIEW: Paul learned that even though the Law is spiritual, good and just, relating to God based on it, steered him away from God's Riches of Grace in Christ, and made him reliant on his own resources and power, which were completely inadequate for the job. When it came to Sin and Death, on his own he was bankrupt. When he stopped accessing God's resources and power, he "sold" himself out and had no way to control sin, so he fell under its power. (Rom. 7:14)

--this is the state of the believer who tries to make himself into the person he thinks God wants him to be.

v.14: For we know that the law is spiritual: but I **Paul in reliance on self**) am carnal, sold under sin.

v. 15: For that which I **(in reliance on self)** (Paul knowing the good things of God) ALLOW NOT: for what I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would, that do I **(in reliance on self)** not; but what I (Paul knowing the good things of God) hate, that do I **(in reliance on self)**

v. 16: If then I **(in reliance on self)** do that which I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would not, I (Paul knowing the good things of God) consent unto the law that it is good.

v. 17: Now then it is no more I (Paul knowing the good things of God) that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

v. 18: For I (Paul knowing the good things of God) know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I (in reliance on self) find not.

v. 19: For the good that I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would, I (in reliance on self) do not: but the evil which I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would not, that I (in reliance on self) do.

v. 20: Now if I (in reliance on self) do that I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would not, it is no more I (Paul knowing the good things of God) that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

v.21: I (Paul knowing the good things of God) find then a law, that, when I (Paul knowing the good things of God) would do good, evil is present with me.

v. 22: For I (Paul knowing the good things of God) delight in the law of God after the inward man:

v. 23: but I (Paul knowing the good things of God) see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

v. 24: Oh, wretched man that I (in reliance on self) am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death (*death to or separation from his Christian walk and service*)?

v. 25: I (PAUL IN RELIANCE ON GOD) thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself (Paul knowing the good things of God) serve the law of God; but (I in reliance on myself serve) with the flesh the law of sin.

7. The only solution that delivers believers from sin and death in their Christian walk and service is reliance on God through Christ and His Cross. We must take our eyes off our own person and work and place them firmly, squarely, unwaveringly, on Christ and His Work on the Cross for us. It is only there that we will see the infinite Love of God, Agape Love, which the Holy Spirit uses to re-create our hearts and empower us to serve God by serving others for the sole purpose of building them up in Christ (Rom. 5:1-11).

8. The Walk And Service That Pleases God Is:
ANYTHING “DONE” MOTIVATED AND EMPOWERED BY
THE LOVE OF GOD AT THE CROSS OF CHRIST!

Because that is God working in and through you to “do” His
good pleasure.

9. If you are experiencing anxiety and fear, disappointment, defeat and despair. If you are trying to do God’s good but only recognizing how far short you fall, and how many opportunities you have missed, not measuring up; if you are experiencing feelings of guilt and condemnation, focusing on your sins; then you are trying to relate to God through the sinful flesh, which comes under the governance of the Law, which always leads to guilt, condemnation and death.

10. The true Christian walk and service results from looking at Christ and His Cross and the infinite Love of God displayed there for sinners, freeing us from Sin and Death in Christ, and THANKING God for it, REJOICING in it, BASKING IN IT, CELEBRATING it, LUXURIATING in it, WALLOWING in it, DELIGHTING in it, RELISHING it, SAVORING it ... more and more and more!

--This is God working in and through you and anything “done” on this basis is always the walk and service that pleases God (Phil. 1:8-11; 2:13), bringing victory, hope, joy, no condemnation, comfort, peace, righteousness and life.