



The Book of Romans

Tuesday Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

July 21: Understanding Our Own Actions

Romans 7:13-25

“The Law is and remains—both to the penitent and impenitent, both to regenerate and unregenerate people—one and the same Law. It is God’s unchangeable will. The difference, as far as obedience is concerned, is only in the person.” - *The Formula of Concord*

Romans 7:13-14

Does the Law alone bring death? What is revealed in sinners through the Law?

Does the Law make us worse?

Romans 5:20 Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.

Romans 7:15-17

What does Paul want to do? What does he end up doing?

Does Paul agree that the Law is good? Is Paul evading responsibility for sin?

“Both expressions are true, that he himself does it and he himself does not do it. He is like a horseman. When his horses do not trot the way he wants them to, it is he himself and yet not he himself who makes the horse run in such and such a way. For the horse is not without him, and he is not without the horse. But because a carnal man certainly consents to the law of his members, he certainly himself does what sin does.” – Martin Luther

“In Christians, this repentance continues until death. For through one’s entire life, repentance contends with the sin remaining in the flesh. Paul testifies that he wars with the law in his members (Romans 7:14–25) not by his own powers, but by the gift of the Holy Spirit that follows the forgiveness of sins [Romans 8:1–17]. This gift daily cleanses and sweeps out the remaining sins and works to make a person truly pure and holy.” – *The Smalcald Articles*

Romans 7:18-20

What does Paul mean by *the flesh*?

What does Paul desire? Does he have the ability to carry out his desires?

What does Paul keep on doing? What does Paul blame?

1 John 3:6 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.

Romans 7:21-23

What does Paul mean when he says, “I find it to be a law”?

^{NASB} **Romans 7:21** I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

^{NLT} **Romans 7:21** It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

Where do we find evil?

Genesis 4:7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.

“What he describes is the painful experience that a man can have when he must root out all evil even within the heart.” – Bo Giertz

Romans 7:24-25

What is his judgment against himself? What is the resolution to his tension?

1 Corinthians 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

What does Paul serve with his mind? What does Paul serve in the flesh?

“But what is the old man? It is what is born in human beings from Adam: anger, hate, envy, unchastity, stinginess, laziness, arrogance—yes, unbelief. The old man is infected with all vices and has by nature nothing good in him [Romans 7:18]. Now, when we have come into Christ’s kingdom [John 3:5], these things must daily decrease. The longer we live the more we become gentle, patient, meek, and ever turn away from unbelief, greed, hatred, envy, and arrogance.” – *The Large Catechism*