

ROMANS CHAPTER 7

THE LIFE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE

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Question?



Is Romans Chapter 7 speaking of Paul's Testimony (pre-Conversion, before Salvation) or Paul's (Post-Conversion, after Regeneration)? Was he living a defeated life while serving The Lord Jesus Christ? NO! By no means!

The Goal of this paper is to look at what Paul described of his life which was as a Servant of The Almighty God and His Dear Son The Lord Jesus Christ. Paul Could say by The Spirit of God in The Word Of God that he was living a life of self-denial, dead to Sin, Self, and the World, not a life of continual defeat.

We will look at the statements of Paul in the Scriptures:

- Demonstration of a New Life (a new creature);
- Deliverance (I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord);
- Dedicated (I have lived in all good conscience before God);
- Devout (holily, justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe);
- Diligent “thou hast fully known my doctrine, and manner of life”;
- Doing the Will of God (what you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, **do!**)!

1. To whom was Paul Speaking in Romans 7:1a?

“Know ye not, brethren, **“for I speak to them that know the law”**. He is looking back at his past life. He was one that knew the Law and tried to live it along with others that knew the law.

2. Paul referred back to his life before regeneration in these Scripture texts.

“Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church, touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless” **Phil. 3:3-6**. “My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee” **Acts 26:4-5**.

3. Was Paul still in bondage to Sin? **No**-he was speaking of his past life. “**For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Rom. 7:14** (This was his past life, which resulted in defeat)

4. Was Paul teaching opposing truth in Romans chapter 7 to what he taught in Romans chapter 8? **NO!**

He said in chapter 8 “**For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” Rom 8:6-7.**

In this text Paul was speaking of life after salvation (post-conversion).

5. When Paul was speaking to The Church of Corinth, he addressed them as brothers. But there were 2 other groups of people to whom he was writing in the beginning of Chapter 3, to whom he could not speak as spiritual. Read 1Cor. 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal**, *even* as unto **babes** in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?” NOTE: as unto **babes**, as unto **carnal** (the word *even* in the KJV was supplied – not in the original Text). The double use of ὅς (hos) in the Greek indicates two classes of people being addressed. In the church of Corinth there were Carnal ones and there were Babes. Paul was addressing both at that point. Look at what Paul says in Romans 8:7 “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be”. Paul himself was certainly not at enmity with The God. To those that are carnal (along with the babes) Paul was giving the Milk of the Word of God to get them to respond properly to The God.
- Note: Is Paul saying that his life was in constant defeat and living for the flesh and then turned around to say differently by The God’s Word to the Church at Corinth? **No!**
6. What did Paul say in 2Cor. 5:17-20 in regards to the former life before salvation and to life after salvation? “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, **be ye reconciled to God!**”
- Note: Paul had concern for others in The Church that were not reconciled to The God so that they could become new creatures in The Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Look at Paul’s statement to the Ephesians in The God’s Word in Eph. 2:2-3 about their past life before regeneration: “According to the ruler: of the authority of the air, ^{namely} of the spirit who is now continually effectively working in the children of disobedience: . . . demeaned in the passionate lusts of the flesh of ours, doing the **determined wills of the flesh and of the thinking capacities**” **Eph. 2:2,3 APT**
8. **Look at what Paul stated about his testimony after regeneration that was a reality in his own life:**
- A. **Rom. 7:24-25a** “O wretched man that I am! Who shall **deliver** me from the body of this death? **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord**”.
 - B. **Heb. 13:18** “Pray for us: for we trust **we have a good conscience**, in all things willing to live honestly”.
 - C. **Acts 23:1** “And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, “Men and brethren, **I have lived in all good conscience before God** until this day”.
 - D. **1Thes 2:10** “Ye are witnesses, and God also, how **holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves** among you that believe”.
 - E. **2Tim 3:10** “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, **manner of life**, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience”.
 - F. **Phil 4:9** “Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and **seen in me**, do: and the God of peace shall be with you”. Paul is able to say this by The Spirit of The God due to his life being victorious in The Lord Jesus Christ. He was able with authority to say to others that what they learned, received, heard, and seen in him, **do!** (This would result in the God of Peace being with them).
- This certainly does not speak of his life in constant defeat and living after the flesh and only his mind being right with The God. Many have used Romans Chapter 7 to explain Paul’s life as being carnal. This cannot be true when comparing scripture with scripture.*

- G. **1Cor. 4:16-17** “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye **followers** of me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and **faithful** in The Lord, who shall bring you into **remembrance of my ways which be in Christ**, as I teach everywhere in every church”. In this text Paul told the Church to be **imitators** (followers) of him. This does not sound like a person living carnally than telling others to imitate him.
- H. **Gal. 2:20** “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of The Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”.
- I. **Gal 5:24** “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts”.

As we consider the testimony of Paul throughout the New Testament It would go against The God’s Word to say he was living a life that was always defeated (living after the flesh). Paul’s Testimony was a life that was committed to The Lord Jesus Christ and God The Father in his **heart, mind, and outward life** (practice), in order for him to proclaim all that was said by The Word of The God. Paul was not living the former life (concupiscence-passionate lust) as he talked about in Romans 7:8 from his past before salvation. We need to proclaim the same Scriptural Truth that Paul taught in The Word of The God that there is victory in The Lord Jesus Christ. We must make sure when going into chapter 8:1 that we quote The God’s word in its entirety **There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. In Verse 2 it makes it even more clear when Paul say’s **Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death**.

Three Questions:

1. Will we, as the church, continue to speak of Paul a Servant of The God as one that lived after the flesh (living in sin and serving self) thus negating his testimony in The God’s Word and at the same be in opposition to what The God says about Paul’s Life and Service while on earth?
2. Will we continue wrongly using 1Tim 1:15 as a proof text of Paul’s life after salvation when stating “that Paul was Chief of all sinners”? Paul’s statement in this verse was relating to salvation from sin. The verse states that “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”. Paul did see himself as chief sinner before salvation after all the havoc he brought against the church and even stood by while Steven’s life was taken for The Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Will we as the Church and individuals today examine our lives to make sure we are not living as we may have claimed Paul was living, thus ensuring our failure to take the whole counsel of The God’s Word?

Two verses I would like to end on:

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

1Cor. 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.