

- I. Introduction.**
  - A. Even though we as followers of Jesus have been released from sin's bondage and have the power to say "no" to sin, we all struggle with sin.**
  - B. Jesus, the one who released us from sin's bondage, is also the one who enables us to say "no" to sin continuously and live a victorious, fulfilled life.**
- II. Paul Before He Came to Know Christ (v.7-13).**
  - A. God's written law made Paul aware of his sin (v.7).**
  - B. The law stirred up the sinful passions in Paul's mind and heart and he rebelled (v.8).**
  - C. When Paul was a young child he was in a state of innocence and alive to God, but when he became aware of right and wrong his sinful nature within him expressed itself through him and he died spiritually (v.9).**
  - D. The law (commandment) promises life to anyone who can obey it all of the time (v.10).**
  - E. Sin deceived Paul by making itself look promising (v.11); sin can look good but it always results in undesirable consequences – the ultimate consequence is spiritual death.**
  - F. The law was not responsible for Paul's spiritual death; Paul died spiritually because he sinned; the law was responsible for exposing Paul's sin and leading him to Christ (v.12,13).**
- III. Paul's Struggle With Sin As a Follower of Christ (v.14-25).**
  - A. Paul knew that there were times in his Christian life when he was unspiritual (v.14).**
    - 1. Every follower of Jesus has a sinful nature (see Rom. 7:18) and a divine nature (see 2 Pet. 1:3,4).**
    - 2. Two powers are at work within us, vying for our allegiance; the choice to yield to one or the other is ours; when we choose God's way we're spiritual; when we choose sin's way we're unspiritual.**
  - B. As a new creation in Christ ( 2 Cor. 5:17), Paul didn't want to sin, but something was enticing him to sin (v.15-17); that something was his sinful nature (v.18).**
  - C. Paul had the desire to do good, but he couldn't do it own his own strength (v.18); he needed help and so do we.**
  - D. In and through Christ, who gives us strength, we can do all things (v.25; see also Phil. 4:13).**