**HONEST TO GOD**

**Romans 7:14-25**

**14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.** [**15**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-15/)**For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.** [**16**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-16/)**If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that *it is* good.** [**17**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-17/)**Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.** [**18**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-18/)**For I 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 find not.** [**19**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-19/)**For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.** [**20**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-20/)**Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.** [**21**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-21/)**I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.**

[**22**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-22/)**For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:** [**23**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-23/)**But I 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.** [**24**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-24/)**O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?** [**25**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Romans-7-25/)**I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**

**INTRO:**

**Illustration: I read about a preacher who preached a message about honesty. The very next day he made a purchase and gave the clerk his money. The clerk gave him way too much money back, but he did not notice it until he got in his car to leave. For a minute he sat there pondering what to do. Finally he knew in his heart that he could not live with himself if he did not return the money.**

 **The preacher went back to the clerk and told her that she had made a mistake and that she had given him too much change. The clerk said, “No, it wasn’t a mistake. My boss told me to give you way too much change. You see, he was at your church yesterday and heard you preach about being honest. He wanted to see if you really practiced what you preached. Congratulations . . . you passed the test.”**

**Several times I have mentioned about a message I heard entitled, “When Are We Going To Be Honest?” The Lord has dealt with me to preach on honesty and being honest to God.**

**Before we get into the text I want to ask you these questions.**

**When are we going to be honest to God about . . .**

**1. Our Sins? 2. Our Struggles? 3. Our Shortcomings? 4. Our Secrets? 5. Our Soul?**

**In our text, Paul opens up and decides to be completely honest. God inspired Paul to write these verses down just like he inspired all writers of the Bible to write the Word of God. That means that God inspired Paul to be completely honest.**

**I believe if God wanted Paul to be completely honest, then I believe that God wants us to be completely honest. We must seek to be Honest to God so let’s look at how Paul did it.**

**I. PAUL WAS HONEST ABOUT HIS FIGHT**

**\*\*To understand Paul’s fight, you got to understand what it means to be saved while living in a body of sinful flesh. There is a Saved Man and a Sinful Man that shares the same being.**

 **A. Notice the Origin**

**V-14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.**

 **1. It Originates with a Struggle**

 **a. The Bible is Spiritual**

**\*\*Paul says that from the very beginning the Law has always been spiritual.**

 **b. The Believer is Secular**

**\*\*But Paul is also honest enough to admit that he is fighting and struggling with his flesh which is carnal and secular – the Sinful Man. Being carnal simply means that his flesh is not spiritual at all. He recognized the conflict and confessed his struggle.**

 **2. It Originates with a Sale**

**sold under sin**

**\*\*The word “under” is used in the sense of being a slave.**

 **a. The Fall of Man sold us into slavery of sin.**

 **b. The Flesh of Man sells us into slavery of sin.**

**\*\*Paul is being real honest, and he is saying, I have a real problem because of this struggle and this sale. Can anybody identify with this fight?**

 **B. Notice the Opposition**

**V-15-16 For that which I (the saved man) do I (the sinful man) allow not: for what I (the saved man) would, that do I (the sinful man) not; but what I (the saved man) hate, that do I (the sinful man). 16 If then I (the saved man) do that which I (the sinful man) would not, I (the saved man) consent unto the law that *it is* good.**

 **1. It’s Unnatural to follow the Spiritual Man’s ways.**

 **2. It’s Uncomplicated to follow the Sinful Man’s ways.**

**\*\*When we reach a point where we can admit this and confess this by being honest to God about it, then we know that we must work at living for God while always fighting the flesh in the process!**

**II. PAUL WAS HONEST ABOUT HIS FAILURES**

 **A. He Confesses His Faults**

**V-18-19 18For I 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 find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.**

**\*\*Paul takes the opportunity to be honest and confess . . .**

 **1. His Weaknesses**

**but *how* to perform that which is good I (the sinful man) find not.**

 **2. His Wants**

**19 For the good that I would**

**\*\*Paul said, “I the saved man wants to do the right thing!”**

 **3. His Wickedness**

**18For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing:**

**\*\*Paul admits there’s wickedness in his flesh. However, the only good thing in Paul is in his soul and that is God.**

**19b but the evil which I would not, that I do.**

**\*\*Paul said the evil he did not want to do is exactly what he ended up doing!**

 **B. He Confesses His Frustration**

 **20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.**

 **1. The Spiritual Man doesn’t Sin**

 **2. The Sinful Man does Sin**

**\*\*Be Honest to God like Paul and confess your failures.**

**III. PAUL WAS HONEST ABOUT HIS FINDINGS**

 **A. Notice His Companion**

**V-21 21I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.**

 **1. When he does good an enticement is present.**

 **2. When he does good an enemy is present.**

 **3. When he does good an evil is present.**

**\*\*Paul is being honest about the fact that every time he tries to do something good for the Lord, he is going against the grain of the wicked flesh and this wicked world. That’s why there will always be a struggle.**

 **B. Notice His Confession**

**V-22 22For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.**

**\*\*Paul made an honest confession about the saved inward man inside him.**

 **1. The Saved Man loves the Scripture and seeks God’s Fellowship.**

 **2. The Saved Man loves the Standard and seeks God’s Favor.**

**\*\*Let’s be honest. Either we love the Lord and the Word of God, or we don’t. If we don’t want God’s favor or God’s fellowship, then there is not a saved inner person within us!**

 **C. Notice His Captivity**

**V-23 23** **But I 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.**

**\*\*Paul had found out that Satan would do battle through the flesh in his mind just to constrain him and control him through sin.**

**\*\*Has not sin captured us all when we gave into the flesh?**

**IV. PAUL WAS HONEST ABOUT HIS FAITH**

 **A. Paul’s Profession**

**V-24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?**

 **1. Paul is honestly confessing his Wretchedness.**

 **2. Paul is honestly confessing his Worth.**

 **3. Paul is honestly confessing his Wishes.**

 **a. He wishes his Flesh would die.**

 **b. He wishes his Faults would die.**

 **c. He wishes his Father would deliver.**

**\*\*Before our faith in God can ever do a work in our hearts, we must honestly confess our wickedness, our worth, and our wishes before God! So like Paul let’s just be honest!**

 **B. Paul’s Power**

**V-25a I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**\*\*Paul’s faith in God’s deliverance gave him power to overcome his failures and his flesh!**

 **1. Paul’s Faith gave him power to offer an honest Prayer!**

 **2. Paul’s Faith gave him power to offer an honest Praise!**

**\*\*Praise God we do have the power through faith to overcome our failures, our faults, our fetters, and our flesh if we will just be honest to God!**

 **C. Paul’s Point**

**V-25b So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**

**\*\*Paul’s point is that we will either serve the law of God or the law of sin and it is a battle fought in the mind of the believer.**

 **1. You can have the Mind of the Father**

**\*\*If we serve the Lord, we must have faith and have the mind of the Lord.**

 **2. You can have the Mind of the Flesh**

**\*\*If you set your mind upon pleasing the flesh, then you will serve the law of sin.**

**\*\*In other words, Paul is telling us that it takes a mindset of faith and a mindset to fight to overcome the flesh!**

**CLOSE**

**1. Paul was honest to God about . . .**

 **A. His Fight B. His Failures C. His Findings**

 **D. His Faith**

**2. Paul has been considered by many to be one of the most upright Christians to ever live; yet, by his own words of honesty we find out he was not a Super Sinless Christian nor a Super Spiritual Christian.**

**3. Paul battled sin, Satan, the world, the wickedness, and the flesh just like you and I do.**

**4. There’s only one difference that makes Paul different from some Christians. He was Honest to God!**

**5. When was the last time you were honest to God about your fight? Your failures? Your flesh? Your faith?**

**\*\*By the way, when Paul lost his battle with his flesh, he didn’t throw in the towel and surrender and say, “There’s no use fighting that battle! I cannot win that fight.”**

**\*\*No – he just surrendered to God and was honest to God and kept fighting back at the flesh with his faith in God!**

**\*\*Here’s how I know. Because Paul was always honest with God at the end of his life he could say with all honesty, “I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith!”**

**\*\*Will you come right now and be Honest to God about your sins, your struggles, your shortcomings, your secrets, and your soul?**