# “The Best Hope for the Wretched Christian”

### Discovering the Righteousness of God—A study in the book of Romans

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# Romans 7:14-25(ESV)

**14**For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. **15**For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16**Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.**17**So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. **18**For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. **19**For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. **20**Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**21**So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. **22**For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23**but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24**Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25**Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

**How to cope with the tension between who we are and who we want to be:**

**1) Take an Honest Inventory (vs 14-19).**

# Galatians 1:13-14 (ESV)

**13**For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it. **14**And I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers.

# Philippians 3:4-6 (ESV)

**4**though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5**circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6**as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

**2) Take a humble view of self (vs 20-24).**

**Peter’s inner struggle with a consistent sin (fear of others impressions/cowardice/hypocrisy):**

 “After a little while, those standing there went to Peter a third time: ‘Surely you were with Jesus’ …then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them: ‘I don’t know the man!’” **(Before the filling of the Holy Spirit - Luke 26:73-74 NIV)**

 “Before certain men came from James, Peter used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other believing Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that even Barnabas was led astray.” **(After the filling of the Holy Spirit - Galatians 2:12-13 NIV)**

**3) Take hold of Jesus (vs 24b-25).**

**Read ahead for next week: Romans 8:1-11**