The Christian's Civil War

Romans 7:14-25

Read Romans 7:14-25 carefully and prayerfully.

1. Make an overview of the whole chapter. What change takes place in verse 14 when comparing 7-13 with the rest of the chapter? What is so important about this change? How might it affect the way you interpret this text?

2. Write down the phrases and terms Paul uses to describe himself in this passage. His view of himself basically flies in the face of self esteem psychology. How could Paul be so down on himself and yet be so joyful? (v. 22, 25; Philippians 1:18; 4:4)

3. What questions do you have when you read this text? Are there any terms that you do not understand? If you have any confusion about what Paul is stating (this is a hard passage), then write down these questions here and see if you can get them answered in your study this week.

4. Pinch your skin. Go ahead… Is this what Paul means when he uses the word "flesh?" Look up Gal. 4:23, Phil. 1:22, and I Pet. 1:24 and write down the basic meaning according to these verses. Next, consider Romans 7:5, 14, 18, and 25 together with Galatians 5:17-19 and write down the further significance of "flesh."

5. Now look up I John 4:2 and 2 John 7. Why is it important to understand the two uses of the word "flesh?" Did Jesus struggle in the same way Paul did?

6. What is meant by "law of my mind" in verse 23? (use the following verses in this passage to help find the answer)

7. Paul describes a battle waging in his body. In verses 22 & 23, what are the two enemies fighting this battle? What can be said about a person who does not have this battle going on inside of them? Can you honestly say that you have a fierce battle raging inside of you? Pray and write about a strategy to "abstain from the fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul." (I Pet. 2:11)

8. Is it possible to ever become perfect (sinless) before you die? Try to support your answer using Scripture.

9. What is Paul's attitude toward sin in this passage? What is Paul's attitude toward the Law? Do you have the same mindset?

10. Paul seemed to be consumed with the fact that he is still sinful and has not attained perfection. He understood that he was far from perfection and only in the future day, when he is saved from the body of sin and death would he be completely freed from the influence of sin. What can be concluded about spiritual maturity and one's view of his own sin? How sinful do you consider yourself to be? On a separate sheet of paper, write down a list of sins you have committed recently and confess them to God.

11. There is another change of verb tense in verse 24. Paul's struggle with sin caused him to long for the fulfillment of his salvation in the future. When was the last time you thought about your future salvation? Has your sin ever caused you to praise God for saving you from it?

12. Meditate on this passage and the truth it contains. Consider how you might encourage someone in your family, school, or bible study with a truth that encouraged you.

Suggested Memory Verses:
Romans 7:24 and 25