

# Romans 7:14-8:4

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# Introduction

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- It is important to determine who Paul is talking about as we attempt to interpret this passage
  - Is Paul's use of the first-person singular a literary device by which he identifies with his readers?
  - Is Paul referring to himself?
  - If Paul is speaking of himself, is he speaking of his condition before or after his conversion?

# Support for the “Unbeliever View”

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*Those who believe Paul is speaking about an unbeliever point out that he describes the person as being “of flesh, sold into bondage” (v.14), as having nothing good dwelling in him (v.18), and as a “wretched man” trapped in a “body of...death” (v.24). [MacArthur]*

# Support for the “Unbeliever View”

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*How then, it is argued, could such a person correspond to the Christian Paul describes in chapter 6 as having died to sin (v.2), as having his old self crucified and no longer being enslaved to sin (v.6), as being “freed from sin” (vv.7,18,22), as considering himself dead to sin (v.11), and as being obedient from the heart to God’s Word (v.17)? [MacArthur]*

# Support for the “Believer View”

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*Those who contend Paul is speaking about a believer in chapter 7 point out that this person desires to obey God’s law and hates doing what is evil (vv.15,19,21), that he is humble before God, realizing that nothing good dwells in his humanness (v.18), and that he sees sin as in him, but not all there is in him (vv.17,20-22). He gives thanks to Jesus Christ as his Lord and serves Him with his mind (v.25).*

*[MacArthur]*

# Support for the “Believer View”

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*The apostle has already established that none of those things characterize the unsaved. The unbeliever not only hates God’s truth and righteousness but suppresses them, he willfully rejects the natural evidence of God, he neither honors them, nor gives thanks to God, and he is totally dominated by sin so that he arrogantly disobeys God’s law and encourages others to do so (1:18-21,32).*

*[MacArthur]*

# Conclusion

## *Paul Has in Mind Here the Believer*

- Verses 7-13 are in the past tense
- Verses 14-25 are in the present tense
- When added to the previous arguments, the change of tenses strongly supports the idea that in verses 14-25 Paul is describing his life as a Christian

*Paul is still teaching about the broader subject of justification by grace through faith. he has established that justification results in the believer's security (chapter 5), his holiness (chapter 6), and his freedom from bondage to the law (7:1-6). To that list of benefits the apostle now adds sensitivity to and hatred of sin. [MacArthur]*

# No Condemnation

## *Romans 8:1*

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

☉ “Therefore”

- What’s the therefore there for?
- *In view of our justification and in spite of the difficulty encountered in chapter 7, there is no condemnation...*

☉ “no condemnation”

- Because there is no condemnation from God, there is *in fact* no condemnation.
- Lesser powers (Satan, others, self) may try to condemn us, but God declares that there is no condemnation for us

☉ “in Christ Jesus”

- Freedom from condemnation is conditioned upon our position *in Christ Jesus*
- Recall our discussion on Rom 5:12-14



# Under a New Law

## *Romans 8:2*

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*because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

⊖ “the law of the Spirit of life”

- Relates to the tree of life

⊖ “the law of sin and death”

- Relates to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- The wages of sin is death (6:23)
- The principle of death and decay from which the creation longs to be liberated (Rom 8:20-21)
- See “The Fall and Death” chart from Romans 5

# Christ Did What the Law Couldn't

## *Romans 8:3*

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*For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,*

- “what the law was powerless to do...God did”
  - The law couldn't do it (Gal 2:21)!
  - Christ had to do it (Mt 26:42)!
  - What Moses couldn't do, Joshua did (Josh 11:23)
  - What the kinsman-redeemer couldn't do, Boaz did (Ruth 4:6)

# The Law Finally Satisfied

## *Romans 8:4*

*in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

- The requirements of the law are met in us because of what God does
  - The passive voice indicates that it is not we who do it
- Christianity is the religion of divine accomplishment. [MacArthur]
- We must live according to the Spirit (Rom 14:17), not the flesh (vv.8-9)
- More on life in the Spirit later

# Bibliography

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# Consequences of The Fall

## *The Fall and Death*

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- Death means separation
  - Spiritual--Relationship with God (Isa 59:1-2)
  - Physical--Separation of Body and Spirit
    - “Her spirit returned” Luke 8:53-55
    - “the body without the spirit is dead” James 2:26
  - Eternal--The Second Death (Rev 20:14)
- If death means separation, what is life?
- Was God lenient with Adam in delaying his death hundreds of years (Gen 5:5)?



# The Laws Of Romans

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- ⦿ Law of faith (v.3:27)
- ⦿ Law of marriage (v.7:2)
- ⦿ Law of God (v.7:22,25; 8:7)
- ⦿ Law of my mind (v.7:23)
- ⦿ Law of sin (v.7:23,25)
- ⦿ Law of the Spirit of life (v.8:2)
- ⦿ Law of sin and death (v.8:2)
- ⦿ Law of righteousness (v.9:31)

