

“DEFINING THE LINES” SERIES #2

- 1, Paul describes **bondage to sin as captivity**
2. **The language of bondage matches pre-deliverance condition**
3. The tense shows contrast between **former state and present deliverance**

1. Paul Describes Being Held Captive by Sin

Romans 7:14 —

“For we know that **The Written Law is of The Spirit**, but I am **of the flesh** and **I am sold under sin.**”

Explanation:

- “Represents: **Sold under sin**” = **slavery language, not regenerated yet.**
- This mirrors Romans 6:6 **where sin was former master.**
- Captivity terminology describes bondage condition.

Romans 7:23 —

“**But I see another law in my members which fights against the law of my mind and captivates me to the law of sin which is in my members.**”

Explanation:

- “**Captivates me**” = **prisoner language.**
- **This describes someone enslaved.**
- **Romans 6 says believers are freed from sin.**
- So **Romans 7 describes the bondage condition.**

Romans 7:24 —

“Oh, wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?”

Explanation:

- Out cry for deliverance.
- Admits he unregenerated state he is in Romans 7.
- Not language of someone already living in freedom.
- Indicates pre-deliverance struggle.

2. Paul Shows This Was the Former State

Romans 7:5 —

“For when we were in the flesh, the passions of sins which were by the written Law were working in our members to yield fruit unto death.” [becoming exposed by the contrast of fallen nature; His indwelling sin within!]

Key phrase: “when we were” [pass tense]

Explanation:

- **Past tense.**
- “When we were in the flesh – in Adam.”
- Exposes previous thoughts of teaching in some churches that think sin nature and the divine nature are warring against each other in believers!
- This only matches Adamic identity.

Romans 7:6 —

“But now we have been **released from** The Written Law and we have died to that which held us, that we would serve in newness of The Spirit...”

Key phrase: “But now”

Explanation:

- Clear transition.
- Former captivity → present freedom.
- “Died to that which held us.”
- The bondage described no longer defines the believer.

3. Sin Personified as a Ruling Power

Romans 7:8 —

“But sin found an occasion by the commandment and it produced in me all lust...”

Romans 7:9 —

“And I was alive without the written Law once, but when the commandment came, sin came to life [exposed him] and **I died.**”

Explanation:

- Sin exposed “came to life [it was active in His life].”
- Death resulted.
- Reflects awakening of guilt under law before grace.

Romans 7:11 —

“For sin found an occasion by the commandment and deceived me and by it killed me.”

Explanation:

- Sin deceives and kills.
- This language parallels Genesis (**Adam deceived → death**).
- Shows **Adamic bondage under sin.**

4 The Internal Conflict Described

Romans 7:18 —

“For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh...”

Explanation:

- “In my flesh” defined as realm of corruption.
- Flesh here = unredeemed Adamic condition.
- Compare Romans 8:9: “You are not in the flesh” [the Adamic condition]

Romans 7:19 —

“For I do not do the good that I want, but the evil that I do not want is what I do.”

Explanation:

- The Powerlessness language of being taken captive by.
- Contrasts with Romans 8:2 where Spirit frees.

Romans 7:20 —

“But if I do that which I do not want, it is not I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.” [He is exposed and realizes the spirit that is at work in the children of disobedience]

Explanation:

- Sin depicted as indwelling tyrant.
- This matches pre-crucifixion condition.
- Romans 6:6 says body of sin is destroyed.

5. Contrast With Chapter 8 (Deliverance)

Romans 7 ends with:

Romans 7:25 —

“I thank God by Yahshua The Messiah our Lord!”

Immediate transition to Chapter 8:

Romans 8:1 —

“Therefore there is now no condemnation to those who are in Yahshua The Messiah...”

Romans 8:2 —

“For the law of The Spirit of Life in Yahshua The Messiah has freed you from the law of sin and of death.”

The **“law of sin and death”** was done away by a New Law in operation – **“The Life [being enlivened] within Messiah Yahshua!”**

Explanation:

- Romans 7 = **captivity**
- Romans 8 = **freedom**
- **The law of sin and death no longer rules the believer**

6. Tense Observations in Romans 7

Notice the structural clues:

- 7:5 — **“When we were”** (past)
- 7:6 — **“But now we have been released”** (present freedom)
- 8:1-2 — **declarative present victory**

The flow:

Former state under law → realization of bondage → cry for deliverance → deliverance in Messiah → Spirit Life!!!

The Theological Flow of Romans 7

Paul shows:

- ✓ Sin as a ruling power
- ✓ Bondage under law
- ✓ Flesh as Adamic condition
- ✓ Internal captivity
- ✓ Cry for deliverance

Then:

- ✓ Freedom in Messiah Yahshua
- ✓ Not in flesh [in old Adam]
- ✓ Law of Spirit gives Life
- ✓ No condemnation

Romans 7 describes the man under law and sin's captivity.
Romans 8 describes the saved man in the Spirit.

AWAKE TO THE TRUTH!

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