

THE PROBLEMS OF CARNALITY

Part 3

The State of Carnality

Rom. 7:1-24

INTRODUCTION

I. A CARNAL CHRISTIAN IS A MISERABLE CHRISTIAN. Rom. 7:24

A. The word translated "wretched" is talaiporos.

1. Talaiporos is a compound word made up of :

- a) Talao -- "**to take upon oneself, to bear, suffer, undergo, endure hardship.**" -- Liddell & Scott lexicon
- b) Poros -- **that which is hardened, blind; unable to see or understand anything.** Cf. Rom. 11:7, 25 (of Israel); 2 Co. 3:14 (of unsaved men)
2. "**Enduring toils and troubles, afflicted, wretched**" -- Joseph Thayer
3. "**A heart-rending cry from the depths of despair**" -- Sanday and Headlam Commentary on the Book of Romans
4. "**The burden of indwelling sin was a load which the apostle could neither cast off nor bear. He could only groan under its pressure, and long for deliverance by a power greater than his.**" -- Charles Hodge Commentary

B. A different form of taliporos is translated misery in two places in Scripture.

1. Used of the miseries that rich men are prone to. Ja. 5:1
2. Used of the state of fallen mankind. Rom. 3:16

II. THERE ARE SEVERAL "DEATH" TERMS USED IN THE SEVENTH CHAPTER OF ROMANS TO INDICATE THE STATE OF A CARNAL BELIEVER.

A. Thanatos is a word commonly used in the New Testament that emphasizes the act of separation either in a physical or spiritual sense.

1. It is used of physical death. 1st John 5:16; Heb. 11:5; 2 Tim. 1:10
2. It is used without the Greek article to note a quality of separation from God's life. Rom. 7:10, 13 cf. Rom. 8:6

B. The Greek word nekros is used to indicate the state of the sin nature when one lives apart from law. Rom. 7:8

C. The word "died" is apothnesko which is used in the New Testament to explain the means of death. Vs. 11

1. Apothnesko is used in a physical death. Matt. 8:32 (of swine running off a cliff and dying); Rom. 8:11 (of those dying in the Tribulation Period).
2. Apothnesko is used of the death due to Adam's trespass. Rom. 5:16
3. Apothnesko is used of the law being the means of putting one to death. Gal. 2:19 (of the swine running off a cliff); Rom. 5:16 (due to the offense of Adam); Gal. 2:19 (the result of law); Rev. 8:11 (of those in Tribulation Period dying)
4. Apothnesko is used in (aor. Act. ind.) to indicate a point in time when Paul died when the commandment revived. Rom 7:11

III. ONE WHO IS CARNAL IS CONFLICTED ABOUT THEIR BEHAVIOR. Rom. 7:15

A. He doesn't experientially understand what he does. Vs. 15

1. The word "do" is katergazomai which is used in the New Testament of **that which is produced by activity**. Cf. Phil. 2:12 (of those things done in line with God's will); Eph. 6:13 (used in a spiritual sense of things done to have victory over satan); 1st Pet. 4:3 (of the activities produced by the unsaved)
2. "I allow not" is better understood "I am not understanding" -- ginosko -- to have an experiential knowledge of a person or thing. Acts 19:15 (the demons of the Lord); 1st Co. 13:12 (of things revealed to the apostles)

B. He practices what he doesn't desire, but what he hates. Vs. 15

1. The word "desire" is thelo which is a wish -- Paul stated he didn't desire the thing that he was doing. Cf. Rom 7:16, 19, 20
2. "Do" is (pres. Act. ind.) prasso which is used in Scripture of that which is **"perform repeatedly or habitually."** -- Strong's lexicon (used 36 times in the New Testament) Acts 25:25 (of the activities of men); John 3:20 (of those practicing worthlessness); Rom. 1:32 (of unrighteousness); Gal. 5:21 (of the works of the flesh -- pres. Act. part.)

C. He desires to do good, but can not find how to work the good. Vs. 18

1. "Desire" is the infinitive use of thelo which denotes an inclination to do that which is good. Cf. Phil. 2:13 (comes from God); Rom. 7:21 (evil presents another realm of desire)
2. "Good" is the word "kalos" **which is that which is beautiful in appearance -- that which is seen as having value**. Cf. Matt. 5:16 (men could see under law); 1st Thess. 5:21 (believers are to hold to)
3. Paul expressed frustration about not being able to find how to work the good.

D. He practices evil, though he desires to do good. Rom. 7:19

1. The word for “evil” is kakos which is often used in Scripture of **one doing that which is lacking in character for their own personal gratification**. Cf. Matt. 27:23 (of a crime committed); Rom. 14:20 (doing that which would stumble another brother); 1st Thess 5:15 (giving back to another what one does to you)
2. Good in this context is the word agathos -- **that which is inherently good as produced by the Holy Spirit**. Cf. Rom. 7:18 (not in man); 2 Co. 5:10; Eph. 6:8; 2 Tim. 3:17 (affects works done)
3. A carnal man is one who is practicing evil. Rom. 7:19

CONCLUSION