LOUD CRY COMPENDIUM
"The present truth for this time"

Brief Exposition on Romans 7:22-8:5
The War between the Law of the mind & the Law of sin

*"**For I delight in the law of God** after the inward man: But I see **another law in my members**, **warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into **captivity to the law of sin** which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! **who shall deliver me** from **the body of this death**? **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord**! So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."*
Romans 7:22-25 KJV

The inward man is virtually synonymous with the mind (v.23), and it finds delight in the law of God. This delight causes believers in Christ to want to align themselves with the new nature, *the inward man,* that God has imparted to them.

The *law of sin* is a reference to the sinful nature's rejection of the law of the mind that seeks after God. This sinful fleshly nature seeks to draw us away from following God's work in us.

The wretched or *'distressed, miserable man'* man is the believer whenever he or she is defeated by sin (v.14,23). This defeat occurs whenever the believer fails to live in **the power supplied by the Holy Spirit**. The term *body of death* is used by Paul as a figurative expression for the sinful nature, *i.e.,* the fleshly nature. It is this sinful nature that leads to death, eternal death.

Who shall deliver us from this sinful nature? Paul breaks forth in jubilant praise to God, that there is **victory through Jesus Christ**, who delivers believers from *the body of death*, the flesh. So then, Paul concludes that the problem is not the law, but rather the flesh. Victory over the flesh is what we need, and that victory is found only in Christ Jesus, not in our ownselves.

*"And no man who is not engaged in this conflict, can clearly understand the meaning of these words, or rightly judge concerning this painful conflict, which led the apostle to bemoan himself as a wretched man, constrained to what he abhorred. He could not deliver himself; and this made him the more fervently thank God for the way of salvation revealed through Jesus Christ, which promised him, in the end, deliverance from this enemy. So then, says he, I myself, with my mind, my prevailing judgment, affections, and purposes, as a regenerate man, by Divine grace, serve and obey the law of God; but with the flesh, the carnal nature, the remains of depravity, I serve **the law of sin, which wars against the law of my mind**. **Not serving it so as to live in it, or to allow it, but as unable to free himself from it, even in his very best state, and needing to look for help and deliverance out of himself**. It is evident that he thanks God for Christ, as our deliverer, as our atonement and righteousness in Himself, and not because of any holiness wrought in us. He knew of no such salvation and disowned any such title to it. **He was willing to act in all points agreeable to the law, in his mind and conscience, but was hindered by indwelling sin, and never attained the perfection the law requires. What can be deliverance for a man always sinful, but the free grace of God, as offered in Christ Jesus?** The power of Divine grace, and of the Holy Spirit, could root out sin from our hearts even in this life, if Divine wisdom had not otherwise thought fit. But it is suffered [allowed], that Christians might constantly feel, and understand thoroughly, the wretched state from which Divine grace saves them; might be kept from trusting in themselves; and might ever hold all their consolation and hope, from the rich and free grace of God in Christ."*
Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible

"There is therefore now ***no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit****. For* ***the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death****. For what the law could not do, in that it was* ***weak through the flesh****, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin,* ***condemned sin in the flesh****: That the* ***righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us****, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit."*
Romans 8:1-5 KJV

Sin is the transgression of the Law, **1 John 3:4 KJV**, and the wages or the reward for transgressing the Law, *that is*, committing sin, is death, **Romans 6:23 KJV**. In Christ we are no longer under the sentence or the condemnation of the Law of God, which demands death for the sinner but now, we are empowered by the Spirit to live for Christ.

The Holy Spirit energises our renewed spirit, which has now been *quickened*, **John 6:63 KJV**.

"*What the law could not do, in that it was* ***weak through the flesh…****"* The Law could pronounce judgment on sin, but it could not anything about sin itself. **It had no power to put sin to death in a person's life**. God accomplished what the law could not do in man by sending His only begotten Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh. Jesus, as God, took on **our human nature** that was susceptible to temptation and although He was severely tempted by the enemy, He never gave into any temptation.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, ***he also himself likewise took part of the same****; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil… For in that he himself hath suffered* ***being tempted****, he is able to succour (help) them that are tempted… For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities;* ***but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin****."* **Hebrews 2:14,18; 4:15 KJV**

The purpose of the coming of Christ, was that the law might be fulfilled **Matthew 5:17-18 KJV**. The believer gains the righteous standard of the law, which is love, see **Romans 13:8-10 KJV**. They gain this righteousness not by the means of the law itself but by being in Christ and *walking after the Spirit*.

In verse 5 of Romans 8 we are told that they that are after the flesh *mind the things of the flesh* and they that are after the Spirit, mind *the things of the Spirit*. In essence, this includes a person's will, thoughts and emotions. It also includes assumptions, values, desires and purposes. Therefore, **to set one's mind on the things of the flesh or the Spirit, means to be oriented or governed by those things on which we focus.**

"Believers may be chastened of the Lord but will not be condemned with the world. ***By their union with Christ through faith, they are thus secured****. What is the principle of their walk; the flesh or the Spirit, the old or the new nature, corruption or grace?* ***For which of these do we make provision, by which are we governed?*** *The unrenewed will is unable to keep any commandment fully. And the law, besides outward duties,* ***requires inward obedience****. God showed abhorrence of sin by the sufferings of his Son in the flesh, that the believer's person might be pardoned and justified. Thus, satisfaction was made to Divine justice, and the way of salvation opened for the sinner.* ***By the Spirit the law of love is written upon the heart,***

and though the righteousness of the law is not fulfilled by us, yet, blessed be God, it is fulfilled in us*; there is that in all true believers, which answers the intention of the law.* ***The favour of God, the welfare of the soul, the concerns of eternity, are the things of the Spirit, which those that are after the Spirit do mind****. Which way do our thoughts move with most pleasure? Which way go our plans and contrivances? Are we most wise for the world, or for our souls? Those that live in pleasure are dead,* ***1 Timothy 5:6****. A sanctified soul is a living soul; and that life is peace."*

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This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ***For the flesh lusteth [warreth] against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other****: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under[the condemnation of] the law.*

Galatians 5:16-18 KJV