**Good Law, Bad Hearts pt. 3**

*The Cry of the Convicted Sinner*

(Romans 7:21-25)

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. **REVIEW:** What two “realms of existence” does Paul contrast throughout Romans 6&7? Explain how Paul describes those who are in union with Christ in the following passages: Romans 6:4, 6-7, 14, 17-18. How does this stand in contrast to his descriptions of the “I” of Romans 7:13-25? In your own words, describe the argument(s) Paul is making in the following verses: Romans 6:1, 15; 7:7, 13. In what way(s) does Romans 7:14-25 explain and expound Paul’s argument in verse 13? In what way(s) do verses 14-25 depict the futility of obeying the Law without the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit?
2. **STUDY:** Explain the correlation between Romans 7:14-15 & Romans 7:21. In your own words, explain how Paul is “accepting the verdict” in Romans 7:21. What is he coming to grips with? How does this correlate to what he said in Philippians 3:7-9? Explain how Romans 7:23 helps us understand what the “inner being” of verse 22 is. In your own words, explain how Paul could “delight in the law” if he was not a Christian. What level of dominance does sin wield over Paul in verses 22&23? Why is this important to note?
3. **STUDY:** How does Paul’s cry in verse 24 stand in contrast to his description of Christians in Romans 6? How does it parallel Isaiah’s confession in Isaiah 6? Is it plausible that a Christian would ask “Who will deliver me,” why or why not? Compare and contrast Romans 6:6 and Romans 7:24 – does Paul (in 7:24) seem to be speaking as a Christian? Why or why not?
4. **APPLY:** How has your thinking about Romans 7 been challenged through this study? Which viewpoint of Romans 7 do you find most viable? Why? Assuming Romans 7 speaks of Paul’s pre-Christian experience, in what ways can you relate to him? In your own words, describe the balance between Paul’s positive assessment of Christians in Romans 6 with the reality that we still battle indwelling sin (1 Jn. 1:8). What could be the fallout from adopting Paul’s statement in Romans 7:24 as “the normal Christian experience” (how could it be abused)? Have you ever been tempted to justify sin by citing Romans 7? How has this study challenged your thinking in this regard?