

10-05-14

Series: The Anatomy of a Church

The Anatomy of a Church (33a)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Acts 20:28](#)

(Continuation from 09/28/14)

PERSONAL HOLINESS

STRUGGLE AND CONFESSION: THE BELIEVER IS TO BE FREE FROM THE LAW, [Romans 7:1-25](#)

The Final Lament

[Romans 7:24-25 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

[Romans 7:24 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁴ Wretched [*talaipōros*] man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

The gulf between the demands of the Law and the ability of the flesh to fulfill them is like a vast chasm which seems impossible to bridge. It results in a wail of anguish and a cry for help. “Wretched” is translated from *talaipōros* which carries the thought of being “wretched through the exhaustion of hard labor.”

The words “the body of this death” seems to be an allusion to an ancient custom from days of horrible tyranny. At times a convicted criminal was bound face-to-face, hand to hand, to the corpse of his victim and forced to carry it, until he died of contagion from the putrid, decaying body. That is the result of the conflict described in the previous verses. From that wretched condition comes the cry of despair: “Who can rescue me,” “who can save me,” “who can set me free?”

[Romans 7:24 \(MSG\)](#)

²⁴ I’ve tried everything and nothing helps. I’m at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn’t that the real question?

[Romans 7:24 \(NLT\)](#)

²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

[Romans 7:21 \(Phillips NT\)](#)

²⁴ It is an agonizing situation, and who on earth can set me free from the clutches of my sinful nature?