

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-18 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Romans 7:8) 8 But sin, finding the opportunity afforded by the commandment, worked out in me covetousness of every sort, for apart from law sin was dead.

*** w08 6/15 p. 30 par. 1 Highlights From the Letter to the Romans ***

7:8-11—How did ‘sin receive inducement through the commandment’? The Law helped people to realize the full range, or scope, of sin, making them more conscious of being sinners. Consequently, they saw themselves as sinners in more ways, and more people were exposed as sinners. It can thus be said that sin received inducement through the Law.

(Romans 7:15) 15 For I do not understand what I am doing. For I do not practice what I wish, but I do what I hate.

*** w16 December p. 11 par. 16 By Undeserved Kindness You Were Set Free ***

16 Think of the apostle Paul. We can be sure that he was not sharing in the gross wrongs mentioned at 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. Nonetheless, he confessed that he was still guilty of sin. He wrote: “I am fleshly, sold under sin. For I do not understand what I am doing. For I do not practice what I wish, but I do what I hate.” (Rom. 7:14, 15) This shows that there were other things that Paul viewed as sins, and he was fighting against those wrongs too.

(Romans 7:18) 18 For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, there dwells nothing good; for I have the desire to do what is fine but not the ability to carry it out.

*** w16 May p. 19 Is the Bible Still Changing Your Life? ***

HAVE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

4 We who have come to know and love Jehovah desire with all our heart to do what pleases him. Regardless of how fervent that desire may be, however, our imperfect state renders us incapable of pleasing God at all times. We find ourselves in a situation like that of the apostle Paul, who wrote: “I have the desire to do what is fine but not the ability to carry it out.”—Rom. 7:18; Jas. 3:2.

5 We have put away sinful practices that would disqualify us as members of the Christian congregation. (1 Cor. 6:9, 10) Nevertheless, we are still imperfect. (Col. 3:9, 10) It is therefore unrealistic to expect that after baptism—or even after many years in the truth—we will no longer make mistakes, experience setbacks, or be troubled with wrong motives and inclinations. Certain tendencies might persist for years.

6 Our inherited imperfection does not need to prevent us from enjoying Jehovah’s friendship or continuing to serve him. Consider this: When Jehovah drew us into a relationship with him, he knew that we would err at times. (John 6:44) Since God knows our traits and what is in our heart, he surely was aware of what sort of imperfect tendencies would be particularly troublesome for us. And he knew that we would occasionally transgress. Yet, this did not prevent Jehovah from wanting us as his friends.

(Romans 7:24, 25) 24 Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body undergoing this death? 25 Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So, then, with my mind I myself am a slave to God's law, but with my flesh to sin's law.

*** w17 November p. 8 par. 1 Are You Taking Refuge in Jehovah? ***

“MISERABLE man that I am!” (Rom. 7:24) Many of God's faithful servants have echoed those words of the apostle Paul. We all suffer from inherited sin, and when our actions do not reflect our keen desire to please Jehovah, we may feel miserable. Some Christians who have committed a serious sin have even felt that they are beyond God's forgiveness.

*** w17 November p. 12 par. 15 Are You Taking Refuge in Jehovah? ***

After Paul expressed his misery for failing to obey Jehovah perfectly, he exclaimed: “Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Rom. 7:25) Yes, despite his struggle with sin and his past wrongdoing—for which he had repented—Paul was confident in God's forgiveness through Jesus. As our Ransomer, Jesus cleanses our consciences and gives us inner peace.

(Romans 8:1) 8 Therefore, those in union with Christ Jesus have no condemnation.

*** w11 11/15 p. 11 par. 5 For Life and Peace, Walk in Accord With the Spirit ***

Then, he addressed those “in union with Christ Jesus”—anointed Christians. (Read Romans 8:1, 2.) By means of his holy spirit, Jehovah adopts them as sons, calling them to be “joint heirs with Christ.” (Rom. 8:14-17) God's spirit, coupled with their faith in Christ's ransom sacrifice, enables them to come off victorious in the

struggle that Paul described and thus “have no condemnation.”

(Romans 8:38, 39) 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers 39 nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*** w08 6/15 p. 30 par. 11 Highlights From the Letter to the Romans ***

8:38, 39. Calamities, wicked spirit creatures, and human governments cannot make Jehovah stop loving us; neither should they make us stop loving him.

(Romans 8:26, 27) 26 In like manner, the spirit also joins in with help for our weakness; for the problem is that we do not know what we should pray for as we need to, but the spirit itself pleads for us with unuttered groanings. 27 But the one who searches the hearts knows what the meaning of the spirit is, because it is pleading in harmony with God for the holy ones.

*** w08 6/15 p. 30 par. 10 Highlights From the Letter to the Romans ***

8:26, 27. When we are faced with situations so perplexing that we do not know what to pray for, “the spirit itself pleads for us.” Then Jehovah, the “Hearer of prayer,” accepts appropriate prayers recorded in his Word as coming from us.—Ps. 65:2.