

Romans 7:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Charis de tō theō dia Iēsou Christou tou kyriou hēmōn (χάρις δὲ τῷ θεῷ διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν, "but thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord") answers v. 24's question. Charis (χάρις) means both "thanks" and "grace"—appropriate double meaning. Deliverance comes through Christ alone, prompting thanksgiving. This anticipates chapter 8's full answer: the Spirit's empowerment secures victory.

So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.—Ara oun autos egō tō men noi douleuō nomō theou tē de sarki nomō hamartias (ἀρα οὖν αὐτὸς ἐγὼ τῷ μὲν νοῖ δουλεύω νόμῳ θεοῦ τῇ δὲ σαρκὶ νόμῳ ἁμαρτίας, "therefore I myself with the mind serve God's law but with the flesh sin's law"). Paul summarizes chapter 7's paradox: simultaneous service to two masters—regenerate mind serves God; remaining flesh serves sin. This isn't defeatism but realism pending chapter 8's Spirit-solution. The Christian is oriented toward God (mind) while battling remaining corruption (flesh) until glorification.

Historical Context

Paul sets up chapter 8's triumphant resolution. Chapter 7 diagnoses the problem (indwelling sin, law's inability to sanctify); chapter 8 provides the solution (Spirit-empowerment). The transition is crucial: Paul doesn't leave believers in v. 24's anguish but points to Christ-purchased deliverance accomplished by Spirit-power.

This grounds realistic sanctification theology—progress through warfare, not instant perfection.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing both thanksgiving (deliverance is certain) and ongoing struggle (not yet complete) shape your sanctification expectations?
2. What does it mean practically that 'with the mind' you serve God's law while 'with the flesh' you still battle sin's law?
3. How should chapter 7's honest struggle and chapter 8's confident hope work together in your daily Christian experience?

Interlinear Text

ἐυχάριστῳ	τῷ	θεοῦ	διὰ	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	τοῦ	κυρίου	
I thank	G3588	God	through	Jesus	Christ	G3588	Lord	
G2168		G2316	G1223	G2424	G5547		G2962	
ἡμῶν	ἄρα	οὖν	αὐτὸς	ἐγὼ	τῷ	μὲν	νοῖ	δουλεύω
our	So then	G3767	myself	I	G3588	serve	with the mind	G1398
G2257	G686		G846	G1473		G3303	G3563	
νόμῳ	θεοῦ	τῇ	δὲ	σαρκὶ	νόμῳ	ἁμαρτίας		
the law	God	G3588	but	with the flesh	the law	of sin		
G3551	G2316		G1161	G4561	G3551	G266		

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:17 (Word): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Peter 2:5 (References Jesus): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 49:13 (Sin): Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Philippians 3:3 (References Jesus): For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

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