

Romans 7: 13-25



Getting started

This week we're studying a text that has caused a lot of disagreement between Christians. Maybe your Bible Study Group will become a workshop in how to love people who think differently from you. Try to keep Romans 6 and 8 in mind as you read Romans 7.

The Text – Rom 7:13–25

1. Read all of Romans 7 slowly. As you read, ask different people in your group to imagine that the word "I" refers to

- (a) Adam
- (b) Old Testament Israel
- (c) Paul before he was a Christian
- (d) Paul after he was a Christian
- (e) all Christians
- (f) weak Christians

What parts of the passage stand out to each person?

Does one of these perspectives seem to work best?

2. What does Rom 7 teach us about the OT law?

3. Is the tension in this passage between external realms or internal parts of the person?

The Scriptures – Rom 7:13–25 as a Portion of Scripture

4. What view of the OT law do you see in Psalm 119? Just read a few stanzas.

5. How is the flow of the story in Isa 42:18–25 and 44:1–5 like the flow of thought in Romans?

6. How is Joshua's speech like Rom 7? See Josh 24:14–28.

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Rom 7:13–25 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. Christians have resonated with Rom 7 over the centuries perhaps because our lives do contain tensions. Some of these tensions are inevitable and some are of our own making. Do you experience these tensions? How do you manage them?

I love the law and hate sin	but I sin
I believe that I am saved by grace	but I judge myself by works
I believe that we are saved by grace	but I judge others by works
I want to walk in the ways of the Spirit	but I am shaped by the world around me
The more I understand God's holiness	the more I see my sin
I want the kingdom of God now	but it is still to come

8. Is Paul hopeful about Christian obedience? Are you?