

Romans 7:23 Summary; Romans 7:24, Despair of Reversionism

Without a significant doctrinal inventory to defend the soul, the Holy Spirit is quenched in His efforts to lead and guide the believer. Weakened through doctrinal ignorance, the believer becomes easily susceptible to the assaults of the first husband. Status-quo carnality results and, if not terminated by rebound, is followed by the infliction of goads, divine discipline, and associated pain and suffering.

Principle: Without an advancing inventory of doctrinal ideas the sinful nature controls the battlefield.

Its immediate objective is to keep you ignorant of divine truth. Its ultimate objective is to neutralize you in the spiritual warfare of the Angelic Conflict. The immediate objective is accomplished by laying siege on the soul by means of an ongoing campaign of temptations and vectors which access old wheel-tracks. The ultimate objective is accomplished by a series of campaigns—*coups d'état*—which wear down the believer's momentum and desire, imprisoning him in a lifestyle of human good and evil.

The warfare is for a lifetime, the sieges and campaigns are a daily battle, and the believer must learn to trust God's Word for victory or be forever enslaved by his body parts. Such a lifestyle habitually lived produces facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness which are expressed in behavior patterns typical of the unbeliever. Oppressed by his own failure to do what he knows is right, the carnal believer digresses into reversionism and develops the mental attitude of despair.

Romans 7:23 - But I see a different kind of principle in my body parts [brain] laying siege in a campaign against the principle of my mind [nous] and so making me a prisoner to the principle of the sinful nature which is located in my body parts [brain].

Romans 7:24: "The Despair of Reversionism"

The verse begins with the nominative singular subject from the personal pronoun: *ego* - "I."

There is no verb stated, a literary technique called "ellipsis." Ellipsis is the omission from a sentence of a word or words that would be required for complete clarity but which can usually be understood from the context. The missing word is indicated in print by three dots (...) called ellipsis points. The context of this sentence requires the addition of the present active indicative of: *eimi* - "am."

present - Retroactive Progressive indicating duration; denotes that which has begun in the past and continues into the present.

Paul makes the point that a given condition began in the past and it continues to describe his condition in present time. We will soon note that that condition is personal misery—a mental attitude of despair.

active - Paul produces the action of the verb by having a mental attitude of despair. indicative - Declarative; a statement of fact.

The mental attitude is stated next by the nominative singular of exclamation from the adjective: *talaiporos* - "miserable" "I... a miserable person!"

The etymology of this word emphasizes the pain, misery, and anguish associated with a lifestyle of reversionism.

Liddell, Henry G. and Robert Scott. Greek-English Lexicon, s.v. talaipwrew “talaiporeo”:

do hard work; endure hardship or distress; to suffer by reason of; hard labor; hard conditions; suffering, distress, misery; a hard life; vagrant, vagabond; bearing great griefs; woeful; wretched.

The pain and misery associated with this word group becomes obvious when you analyze the two words which make up the compound: *talai* - “*To walk in tight boots,*” + *poros*: “*To have blisters on the feet.*”

This word carries with it the idea that the reversionist’s normal life is one of great pain and suffering. This can in no way be associated with the experiences of the believer who is involved in suffering for blessing. Undeserved suffering is by definition unfair and unjust.

talairoros is a pain and suffering which come to the reversionist due to his own poor decisions and is therefore deserved. Some of the poor decisions which result in this form of misery include:

1. Negative volition toward the teaching of divine truth or rejection of that which is communicated.
2. Failure to function within the divine power system and execute the Christian way of life.
3. Ignorance of doctrinal ideas and problem-solving devices.
4. Refusal to admit wrongdoing, neglect of rebound adjustment, disregard for the filling of the Holy Spirit, and failure to grow in grace.
5. The reversionist fails to associate himself with sin and its punishment by the justice of God of which there are three categories:
 - a. The believer who sins but immediately rebounds. No punishment beyond direct ramifications plus a break in spiritual momentum.
 - b. The believer sins, fails to rebound, and enters into status quo carnality. Goads seek to warn the carnal believer of the need for recovery.
 - c. The believer sins, fails to rebound, and becomes involved in the trends of human good and evil. This is spiritual decline into reversionism where divine discipline intensifies to produce a lifestyle of misery.

There is nothing the reversionist can do from his own human energy to escape from the misery associated with his poor decisions. The only escape is by means of the nine-step program for reversion recovery made available to every believer at the moment of salvation by means of the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

This program is so important that it must be repeated from time to time in order to insure its inculcation. This is what Paul refers to in Romans 7:21 as “*doing the honorable thing.*” The dishonorable thing is to continue to utilize human viewpoint solutions.

Principle: Until you change the way you think, you will always revisit the problem. Human-viewpoint solutions are no solutions. The only solution is the divine solution.