

- (2) Paul says that sin was once dead in him, and then sin sprang to life in him.

Suggestion: Sin was once relatively inactive in Paul as far as conviction of transgression was concerned; then sin sprang to life in Paul's knowledge, self-experience, and conviction.

- (3) Paul says that the Law was intended to bring life, but that the Law brought only death.

Suggestion: The Law was never intended to be used by sinners to earn a right standing before God, but rather to show justified sinners how to live; Paul once used it to justify himself. The Law now showed that Paul's attempts to justify himself led to condemnation.

- (4) Paul says that he was once alive, and then he died.

Suggestion: Paul once considered himself spiritually alive, and worthy of eternal life; now he realize that he was a dead men, dead in trespasses and sins, and worthy of eternal death.

2. The second motif in this aspect of Paul's teaching may be expressed in the statement: We now live lives of internal spiritual conflict.

Paul develops this motif in Romans 7:13-8:2.

In 7:13-20 the apostle describes this internal conflict in the life of the justified believer. Of course, there are interpreters who believe this section is dealing with Paul's self-experience as an unregenerate man rather than as a regenerate person. In this connection it is useful to look at those statements in this passage that could be used to argue in favor of taking this as referring to his unregenerate state, and then at those statements that argue in favor of taking this as referring to his regenerate state. For this purpose we look at verses 14-25. The key questions to be asked are: Could the first set of statements refer to a regenerate person? and Could the second set of statements refer to an unregenerate person?

It would appear that the two sets of statements could refer to a regenerate person who is experiencing internal spiritual conflict.

On the one hand we see God's perfect Law of righteousness being written into our hearts, in the form of a principle of innate righteousness, so that the righteous requirements of the Law of God are being reflected in righteous desires and righteous conduct.

On the other hand, the innate sin principle is striving to entice, overpower, and rule us, in order to produce unrighteous desires and conduct.