

THE BATTLE OF THE “GRACELESS” BELIEVER

ROMANS 7:7-13

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: In **Romans 7:1-6** Paul has shown you that a believer is not under the Law. In **7:7-13** you see a believer putting himself back under the Law, using manpower and without grace (Christ’s power). He becomes a defeated Christian in his battle against sin. (See **7:6**, **fn 7:6**.)

SIN SETS UP FOR BATTLE. Using God’s laws, your “code of conduct”, your self-dependence, your self-righteousness, or your morality, sin chooses your turf as its choice of battlefields. (**Romans 7:7, 8, Romans 9:30-10:4, fn 9:31-33, Galatians 3:1-14, fn 3:2, 3, fn 3:11**) *How could you break or prevent the power of sin in your life?*

SIN ATTACKS by leveraging small cracks in self-righteousness, prying ever widening holes, and allowing sin to flood in and dominate the “graceless” believer. The “rush” of the adventure of breaking God’s laws is captivating but in the end leads to death (figuratively—faith not flourishing). (**Romans 7:9-12, fn 7:9-11, fn 7:11, 12, Galatians 5:4, Colossians 2:20-23, fn 2:23, Romans 6:11-14, fn 6:11, Hebrews 12:15, fn 12:15**) *In what area in your life are you most vulnerable to sin, and how could you prevent sin’s attack in this area?*

SIN WINS! “Sin turns God’s intended blessing (His commandments) into a curse; nothing could more clearly show what it is, or excite a stronger desire for deliverance from it (sin).” Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume I (Romans), p. 121. When the defeated believer starts letting God’s grace reign, he wins his battle against sin. (**Romans 7:13, Romans 5:20, 21, Galatians 5:16-18, fn 5:17, Titus 2:11-14, fn 2:11-14, Romans 8:9**) *How could you win your battle over sin?*

Check up—Are you praying with your spouse and your family? Group—Pray for personal requests and bond together by fellowshipping together.