

Two Dilemmas

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Romans: The Righteous Shall Live By Faith / World; Satan; Schemes of Satan; Flesh; An Enemy; Conflict; False Teaching; Seduce; Humanity / Romans 7:15–18

Christians are at war with the world, the flesh and the devil. Satan empowers the world to attack believers externally, persecuting, deceiving and seducing them. Internally, sinfulness frustrates the efforts of believers to serve God fully.



Romans 7:15–18 ESV

¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

I. The world is an enemy

James 4:4 ESV

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⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Romans 12:2 ESV

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

A. The world hates Christians

John 15:19–20 ESV

¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

B. The world has its own false teaching and religion

Colossians 2:8 ESV

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

C. The world seeks to seduce Christians

1 John 2:16 ESV

¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

II. Sinful human nature is an enemy

Galatians 5:17 ESV

¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

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1 Peter 2:11 ESV

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

III. The devil is an enemy

1 Peter 5:8 ESV

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

A. He seeks to tempt Christians

1 Thessalonians 3:5 ESV

⁵ For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

B. He seeks to deceive

2 Corinthians 11:3 ESV

³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

C. He constantly seeks to accuse believers

Revelation 12:10 ESV

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

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God's Plan of Salvation a Dilemma for Mankind

Hear - Believe - Confess - Repent - Be Baptized - Remain Faithful

Romans 10:17 ESV

¹⁷ So faith comes from **hearing**, and **hearing** through the word of Christ.

Hebrews 11:6 ESV

⁶ And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Matthew 10:32–33 ESV

³² So everyone who **acknowledges** me before men, I also will **acknowledge** before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Acts 17:30 ESV

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**,

Galatians 3:27 ESV

²⁷ For as many of you as were **baptized** into Christ have put on Christ.

Ephesians 6:13 ESV

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**.