

Title: A PSYCHOLOGICAL JOURNEY, ROMANS 8:1-11  
(Chatham, NJ; 07/13/14, AM) [D – Psychological Point-of-View]

Theme: Paul's description of the battle going on in his mind and the resolution he provides to that battle take us on a journey through the human dilemma of sin and redemption.

Purpose: To examine the process that the human mind goes through in order to confront sin and to provide an understanding of the nature of Christ's redeeming work in the battle for each human heart.

Introduction:

1. Anybody remember "Fantastic Journey?" (Movie about traveling through the human body to save someone's life)
2. Romans 7 & 8 describe a journey through Paul's mind, and they represent the human drama of how the battle against sin takes place inside all human beings.
3. This lesson expands my lesson from two weeks ago on making choices.

## I. The Inner Mechanism of Paul's Mind, Romans 7:21-25

### A. The Law of Clinging Evil, 21

1. Law here is not the Mosaic Law
2. It is a way of describing a normal function of our existence: Like the "law of gravity" it doesn't command things
3. When someone tries to do right, evil is right there
4. Cain is warned about this in Genesis 4:6-7
5. Sin desires to have us

### B. "I delight in the law of God"

1. He wants to do what is right because he knows it is good
2. Psalm 119 is an extended poem extolling the psalmists' love for and desire to obey God's law
3. Rom. 2:15 – even the Gentiles have a "law written on their hearts"
4. Deep within himself (inner being, also Eph. 3:16 where God strengthens us), he wants what is right
5. Here is where some people get off track: they deny the right and make right that which is wrong (Isaiah says people call good evil and evil good)
6. Confucius said that the first thing to do to restore a state to health was to rectify the names: to call things by their right names rather than by euphemisms.
7. In essence sinful things must be sinful.

### C. The Law of War, 23

1. His members are the passions and desires that tempt us to follow them rather than follow the laws of God
2. This is a function of sin living in humanity
3. "The battle line between good and evil runs through the heart of every man," A. Solzhenitsyn.  
([http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/aleksandr\\_solzhenitsyn.html](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/a/aleksandr_solzhenitsyn.html))
4. It creates a battle that we seem unable to win on our own
5. Paul has become a captive to sin: sounds like he has no choice
6. Yet it isn't a matter of choice but one of power
7. Our battle is against spiritual forces, Ephesians 6:10-12

## II. Resolving the Problem

### A. Jesus condemned sin, 3

1. He deposed it from its rule over the flesh

2. He appropriated sin into his death and broke its enslavement of us
3. Jesus disarmed the “rulers and authorities” Col. 2:15

B. No condemnation for those in Christ, 8:1

1. He broke the guilt that is associated with the Law
2. Sin found an opportunity to enslave us through the Law
3. Jesus satisfied the Law’s demands
4. He nailed them to the cross, Col. 2:14 – he cancelled the record of debt
5. Jesus condemned that which condemned us

III. Life to Your Mortal Bodies, 8:11, through the Spirit

A. The Choice

1. Set the mind on the flesh
2. Set the mind on the Spirit
3. The first mindset is hostile to God
4. The second mindset is available to those who are in Christ
5. We live every day with the choice between the two
6. We are no longer slaves to sin, 6:17-18

B. The Power

1. God broke the hold of sin when we were powerless to do so
2. He set us free
3. The cross is the power of God to raise us to live a new life

Conclusion:

1. Paul examines his own thinking to determine how sin and redemption work on us.
2. Speaking by inspiration he demonstrates the way Christ delivers us from sinful choices.
3. Live by the Spirit or die by the flesh: the choice is yours.
4. Only now you have the power to make the right choice.
5. Become a child of God today.