

Articles and Sermons :: Did You Ever See My Picture?

Did You Ever See My Picture? - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2014/2/19 19:46

This was written by John Newton many years ago, I can so relate...

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to doâ€"that I do not do; but what I hateâ€"that I do. I have the desire to do what is goodâ€"but I cannot carry it out. For what I doâ€"is not the good I want to do. No, the evil I do not want to doâ€"this I keep on doing!" Romans 7

Did you ever see my picture? It has been drawn by a masterly hand. And though another person, and one whom I am far from resembling, sat for itâ€"it is as like me as one new penny is like another! The original was drawn at Corinthâ€"and sent to the Christians at Rome. Many copies have been produced, and it has a place in most public and private libraries, and I would hope in most families. I had seen it a great many times, before I could discover one of my own features in itâ€"but then my eyes were very bad.

What is most remarkable, is that it was drawn long before I was born! And now, having been favored with some excellent eye-salve, I quickly knew it to be my own. I am drawn in a posture which would be strange and peculiar, if it was not so common with meâ€"looking two different and opposite ways at once, so that you would be puzzled to tell whether my eyes are fixed upon heavenâ€"or upon the earth! I am aiming at two things inconsistent with each other at the same time, so that I can accomplish neither.

According to the different light in which you view the picture, I appear to rejoiceâ€"or to mourn; to have nothingâ€"or possessing everything; to be a conquerorâ€"or a captive. In a word, I am a double person! I am a riddle! So it is no wonder if you know not what to make of meâ€"for I cannot tell what to make of myself!

I wouldâ€"and I would not.

I doâ€"and I do not.

I canâ€"and I cannot.

I find the hardest things easyâ€"and the easiest things impossible.

I am both richâ€"and poor.

I can do nothingâ€"yet I can do all things.

I am opposed beyond my strengthâ€"yet I am not overpowered.

I gain when I loseâ€"and I often am a loser by my gains.

But while I am in this perplexity, you will observe in the same pictureâ€"a hand stretched forth for my relief, and may see a label proceeding out of my mouth with these words, "Thanks be to Godâ€"through Jesus Christ our Lord!" The more I study this picture, the more I discover some new and striking resemblance, which convinces me that the Painter knew me better than I knew myself!

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to doâ€"I do not do; but what I hateâ€"I do. I have the desire to do what is goodâ€"but I cannot carry it out. For what I doâ€"is not the good I want to do. No, the evil I do not want to doâ€"this I keep on doing!" Romans 7

In a word, I am a sinner, a vile oneâ€"but a sinner believing in Jesus!

I am a silly sheepâ€"but I have a gracious, watchful Shepherd!

I am a dull scholarâ€"but I have a Master who can make the dullest learn.

Re: Did You Ever See My Picture? - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2014/2/19 20:43

I guess the most important question to ask is: are you "InTheLight" or in darkness?

Re: Did You Ever See My Picture? - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/2/19 21:19

I personally believe the Romans 7 versus that where used are a first person narrative of a past tense event.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2014/2/20 8:56

Quote:

-----I personally believe the Romans 7 versus that where used are a first person narrative of a past tense event.

Yes, I have been taught this as well. But theological training aside, what has your practical Christian experience been?

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by proudpapa, on: 2014/2/20 9:12

Hi Ron

Ron wrote ///Yes, I have been taught this as well. But theological training aside, what has your practical Christian experience been?///

thank you for asking : my experience has been that the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

Which I believe is a different warfare than what we are reading about in Romans 7. but I can certainly understand how some one under this warfare could confuse it with the warfare that romans 7 is speaking of.