

"A CURSE AND A BLESSING"

1. Evaluate the statement, "Scripture can mean whatever you want it to mean." Is that true? Why or why not?

2. How does studying the context of the passages help us to rightly divide the Word? Do you think your theology informs your understanding of the Word or vice versa? Why do you think?

3. In what way is your "spirit willing" but your "flesh weak": Starting an exercise plan? Getting to work on time? Cutting out junk food? Finishing projects around the house? Other: _____?

4. What is the significance of the shift in pronouns from 7:1-6 and this section? How does Paul's example in verses 7-11 illustrate what he meant in verse 5? Give an example of this principle in your life.

5. How does the law which was supposed to lead to *life* actually lead to *death* (see verses 14-20)?

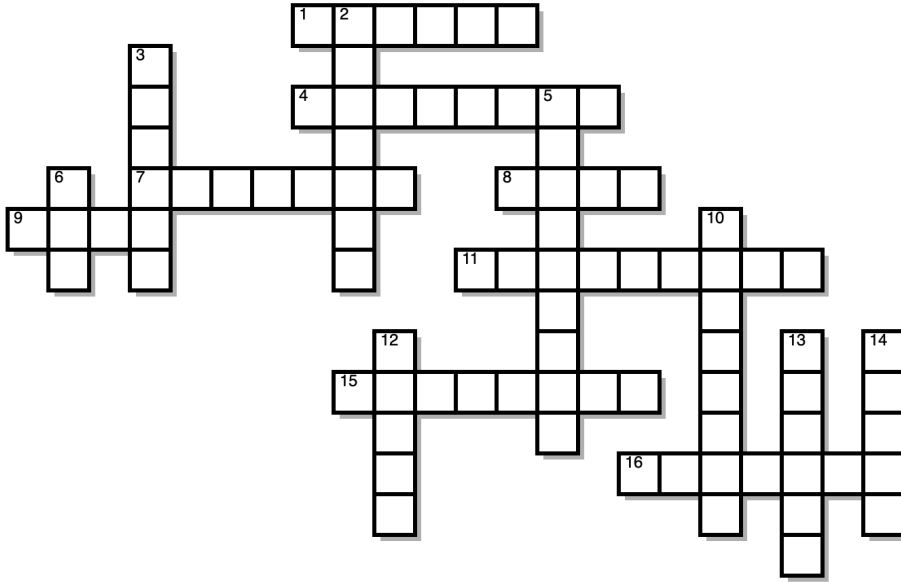
6. Prior to Paul's conversion, how must he have felt about the inner turmoil described here? How did he try to deal with it then (see Philippians 3:4-6)? What has he found in Christ?

7. Why do you think God's law was given for us to follow: (a) Means to follow *in order to be saved*? (b) Guide to follow *once we are saved by grace*? (c) Stumbling block, impossible to follow, which only points the sinner to God's grace? How do verses 10, 12 and 22 support your answer?

8. In light of your own sin struggles, how do you feel reading about Paul's conflict? What hope does Paul give?

9. If you were comparing your spiritual life to a football game, what would the score be? What quarter is it? Are you now on offense or defense? What is your game plan? How does knowing Christ make a difference?

10. When have you experienced the sense of Jesus rescuing you from sins or situations that were too big for you to handle? How does Jesus help you now?



Across

- 1 "So I say, walk by the _____, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16)
- 4 "Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you _____ these qualities you will never fall." (2 Peter 1:10)
- 7 "Wake up from your _____ stupor" (1 Corinthians 15:34)
- 8 "And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is _____." (1 John 3:3)
- 9 "if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will _____." (Rom 8:12-13)
- 11 "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in _____ procession" (2 Corinthians 2:14)
- 15 "The one who _____, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne" (Revelation

Down

- 2 Jesus tells us: You therefore must be _____, as your heavenly Father is _____ (Matt 5:48).
- 3 "No one who _____ in him keeps on sinning" (1 John 3:6-7)
- 5 "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have _____ the flesh with its passions and desires." (Galatians 5:24)
- 6 According to Paul in Romans 6:12-14, we are not to let _____ reign in our mortal bodies.
- 10 "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of _____" (1 Peter 4:1-2)
- 12 "He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his _____." (1 Peter 2:21-22)
- 13 "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high _____" (Hebrews 2:17-18)
- 14 "Put to _____ therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry." (Colossians 3:5)

WORD SEARCH:

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|-----------|-----------------|
| Spiritual | Rescue |
| Sold | Thanks |
| Slave | Delivers |
| Sin | Jesus |
| Law | Christ |
| Living | Transform |
| Hate | Perfect |
| Good | Unrighteousness |
| Evil | Debtors |
| Being | Flesh |
| War | Purify |
| Mind | Abide |
| Prisoner | Conquer |
| Wretched | |

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