

# Sin & the Christian

*The Past Work - The Current Battle - The Future Deliverance*  
*an exposition of Romans 7:20-25*



# Introduction

❖ Romans 7:14-19

“19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”

❖ Do we ever feel like this?



# Context

- ❖ Romans 1-3 (Problem- All are under sin)
- ❖ Romans 4-5 (Solution- Justification of the sinner)
- ❖ Romans 6 (Solution- Condemnation of sin)
- ❖ Romans 7 (Our current struggle)
- ❖ Romans 8 (Our certain, but future final victory)



# Goal

- ❖ Acknowledge,
- ❖ Understand,
- ❖ and Engage in the battle of faith
- ❖ In order to avoid:
  - ❖ Ignorance of, Hopelessness in, or Double-mindedness regarding the battle of faith



# Romans 7:20-25 (ESV)

“20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.”



# Series Breakdown

1. A foundation to perceive and understand the battle
2. Examination of the enemy, the battle ground and the goal of the enemy
3. Examination and celebration of our hope of certain victory



# Romans 7:20 (ESV)

“20 Now if I do what I do not want,  
[then] it is no longer I who do it,  
but [the] sin that dwells within me.”



# The Struggle Observed

“20 Now if I do what I do not want,…”

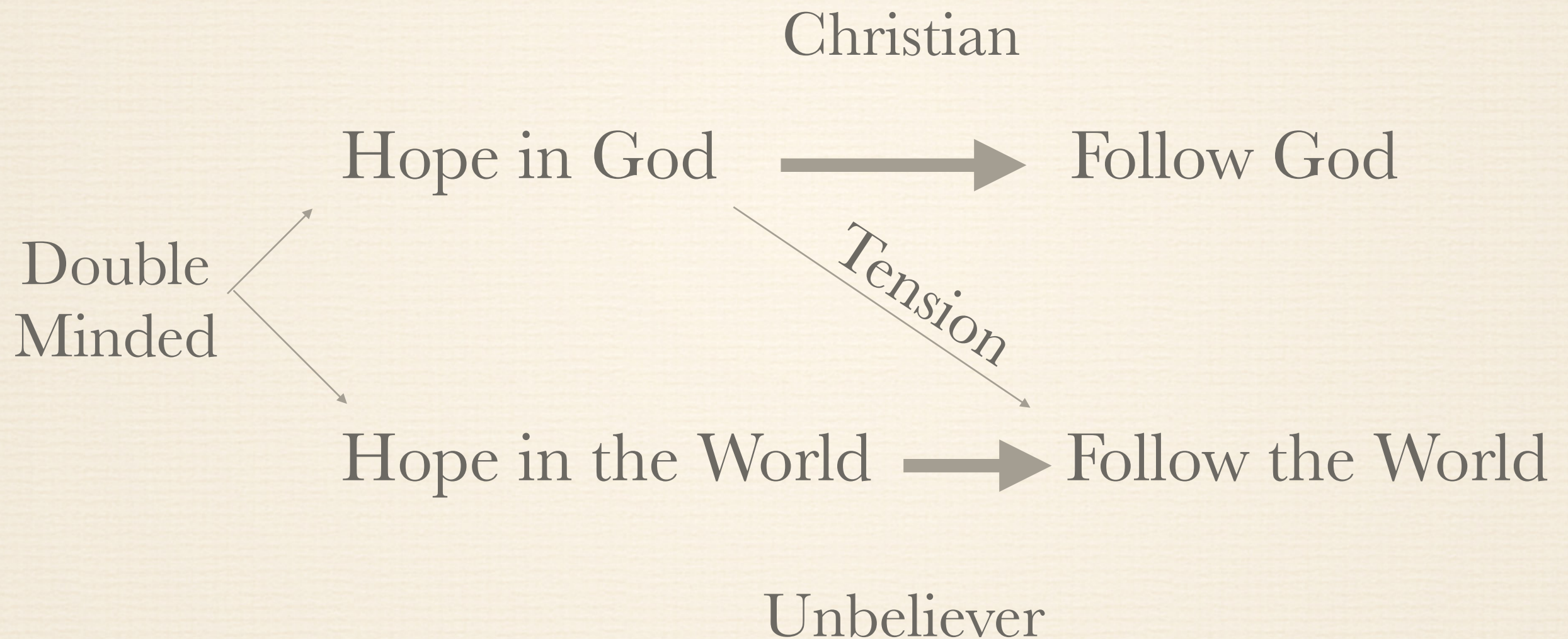
Wanting = Desires, Hopes, Affections, Value

Doing = Volition, Actions, Choices (obey/disobey)

❖ verses 16 & 22; Gal 5:16-17



# The Struggle Considered





# Conclusion- It is not me!

“...[then] it is no longer I who do it,...”

Human Nature (in Adam & under sin)

❖ Rom 3:9; Eph 2:3; Ps 51:5



# Conclusion- It is not me!

“...[then] it is no longer I who do it,...”

New Nature (in Christ & under grace)

❖How?

❖Rom 5:18-19; 1 Cor 15:22; Eph 2:5; 2 Cor 5:17

❖What does it look like?

❖Gal 2:20; Rom 6:2; Eph 5:7-8; verses 16 & 22



# Two Natures

- ❖ So how does having two natures work?
  - ❖ Sin is no longer part of who I am!
  - ❖ Dual processors with an A/B switch
- ❖ If I have died to sin...how is it still there?
  - ❖ Compare Rom 6:6 to Gen 2:15-17
    - ❖ Rom 6:22



# The Culprit

“...but [the] sin that dwells within me.”

- ❖ My remaining sin nature is a foreign invader
- ❖ It is inside my camp- high alert!
  - ❖ Requires little or no provocation
  - ❖ Not a good houseguest or friendly tenant



# Clarifications

- ❖ Objection
  - ❖ Is Paul really talking about a Christian?
  - ❖ Matter of natures
    - ❖ verses 16 & 22 impossible for unbeliever
    - ❖ The conflict clearly possible for a believer



# Clarifications

- ❖ Misunderstandings
  - ❖ Are you saying make peace with sin or that we are not responsible for it?
    - ❖ Rom 8:13-14
    - ❖ Sin condemned & Sinner justified (not both justified)
      - ❖ Rom 8:3-4, 5:1, 6:6



# Conclusions

- ❖ Where there is a new nature, there is a struggle between the old and new
- ❖ Sin does not define me and is not part of me
- ❖ The enemy is within me



# Where from here?

- ❖ Acknowledge,
- ❖ Understand,
- ❖ and Engage in the battle of faith
  - ❖ In order to avoid:
    - ❖ Ignorance of, Hopelessness in, or Double-mindedness regarding the battle of faith