

Sin & The Christian



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

Sin & The Christian

The Current Battle

Romans 7:21-23

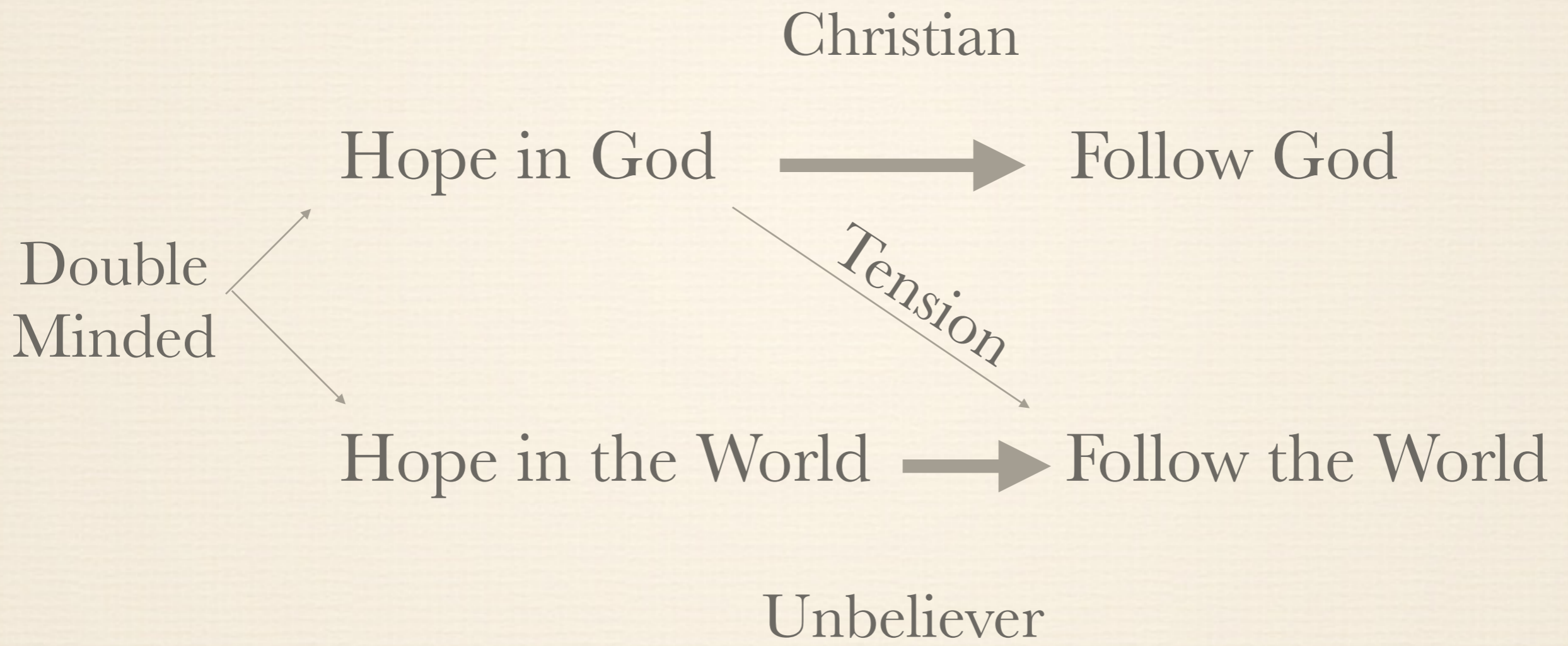
Romans 7:20-25 (ESV)

“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.”

Conclusions from verse 20

- ❖ 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

The Struggle Considered



Romans 7:21-23 (ESV)

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.

Romans 7:21 (ESV)

“21 So I find it to be a law
that when I want to do right,
evil lies close at hand.”

Fickle Righteousness

- ❖ So no perfect works by me in this life
- ❖ Doubtful that any good works are without corruption or the stain of sin, as a result of indwelling sin
- ❖ And anything can turn south in a heartbeat!

Romans 7:22-23 (ESV)

“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.”

- ❖ Embodied soul- 2 Cor 4:16
- ❖ Delight in law- Rom 7; Psalm 119, Psalm 1

How to Spot Trouble?

- ❖ Self-examination?... or
- ❖ Godward meditation?
 - ❖ James 1:22-25
 - ❖ Psalm 139:23-24

Romans 7:23 (ESV)

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.

Freedom vs Captivity

- ❖ Freedom from sin

- ❖ Rom 8:1-2, 6:14, 22; John 8:34-36; Col 1:13

- ❖ Captivity to sin

- ❖ 1 John 1:8-10, 2:1; Gal 5:5; Rom 8:10-11

Freedom in Christ

- ❖ Free from legal guilt & the slavery of sin
 - ❖ No condemnation- Rom 8:1
 - ❖ Body belongs to Christ- 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - ❖ Free to choose righteousness- Rom 12:1
- ❖ But not free from all sin (yet)- Heb 10:14

Conclusion #1

- ❖ As an embodied soul, sin is always closer than we can imagine and our body has allegiance to it
- ❖ Stay alert! Don't be surprised.
 - ❖ Am I taking steps to guard against breakouts?
 - ❖ Am I practicing any kind of discipline?
 - ❖ Do I have an urgency to guard against sin?

Conclusion #2

- ❖ See the battle! Clear vision comes from looking at the model, not the mistake
- ❖ Delight in God & study his Word...not the mirror
 - ❖ Do I delight in the law of God?
 - ❖ Am I meditating on the Word of God?
 - ❖ If not, will I?

Conclusion #3

- ❖ Beware the subtle captivity of sin
 - ❖ Guard against enticement, deception, distraction, or dulling of my mind
 - ❖ Do I care what goes into my mind? Do I take thoughts captive? 1 Cor 10:4-5
 - ❖ Know that I belong to Christ!- Gal 2:19-20
 - ❖ No despair or hopelessness
 - ❖ No guilt or slavery...free to fight!

Final Thoughts

- ❖ If I trust in the Son of God and his righteousness...
- ❖ If I trust in his death as payment for my sin...
- ❖ If I trust in his resurrection as securing my new life...
- ❖ If I reject sin and surrender to Jesus...
- ❖ Then I am a child of God, born of the Spirit...
- ❖ I am forgiven and I have freedom in Christ!

- ❖ May we not be at peace with sin but may we flee at once to Christ for mercy!

from: Rock of Ages, by Augustus Toplady

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.