

**Sincere Desires, Evil Actions; Romans 7:19b**

In order to overcome this habitual lifestyle with its behavior patterns and character traits, the believer must abandon his own agenda and begin to submit to God's agenda. God's plan does not permit man to intrude upon His system with any human ideas for earning his merit or blessing.

Even when the believer performs deeds which are clearly mandated in Scripture it is of no account to God when they are accomplished by means of human energy. The believer's task is to learn what God wants him to do and how He wants it done. We are left alive in the Angelic Conflict following salvation for only one purpose and that is to glorify Jesus Christ and that by means of learning and executing God's plan.

Consequently, God is the one Who decides what we are to do and how we are to do it. We must become humble enough to orient to divine policy and adjust to its requirements. None of these concepts suggest or imply that human ideas, human energy, or good intentions contribute anything to the stated objective. Yet Paul continues to try.

*“For the intrinsic good which I desire, I do not do...”*

Next comes the adversative conjunction of contrast: *alla* - “but.”

Then the neuter singular from an adjective which names one of the children from Paul's first marriage: *kakos* - “the evil” + the pronoun *hos* translated “which.”

Then comes the negative use of the verb: *thelo* - “I do not desire.”

present - Progressive; here used in the pictorial sense. It indicates that which is currently going on and therefore presents to the mind a picture of events as in the process of occurrence.

Paul has facilitated wheel-tracks which cause him to desire to please and serve God. Now we see that he also has facilitated wheel-tracks which prevent him from converting his desires into action.

Evil has become so ingrained into the memory traces of his brain that they are the paths of least resistance. Although Paul does not desire to produce evil, that's exactly what he winds up doing.

active - Paul produces the action of not desiring to produce evil.

indicative - Declarative; reality. The actual performance of that which he does not desire to do is stated next in the present active indicative of the verb: *prasso* - “I keep on practicing.”

present - Progressive; here used to emphasize the continuation of existing results through present time. It refers to a fact which has come to be in the past, but is emphasized as a present reality which is ongoing.

What is the fact that came to be in the past? The facilitation of wheel-tracks of evil.

What is it that continues through present time? A lifestyle and a behavior pattern which reflects these facilitated long-term memory traces.

What is the present reality which is emphasized? Paul, against his own personal desires, chooses to execute paths of least resistance.

These paths of least resistance were established under the tyranny of the first husband and, while in status quo carnality, he has the power to override Paul's desires.

active - Paul produces the action of performing evil.

indicative - Declarative; reality.

*“For the intrinsic good I desire, I do not do, but the evil which I do not desire, this I keep on practicing.”*