

*“The War Within”*

Romans 7:21-24

**Introduction**

**1. To whom is Romans 7:14-25 referring?  
Unsaved man? Saved man? (preferred)  
– reasons:**

- Context of Romans 7 and the flow of the epistle.
- Condition of Paul before conversion (Phil. 3 “blameless”).
- Shift in tenses in 7:1-2 (past), 7:13-25 (present). Paul is relating an experience from his present regenerate state.
- Statements in 7:13-25 which could only be said of a believer.

## **2. The Christian inner war – The old disposition and the new disposition**

### **I. The Power of Sin (7:14-17)**

- The picture of a slave
- The problem (v. 17)

### **II. The Powerlessness of the Saint (7:18-20)**

- What is “my flesh?”

### **III. The Perpetual Struggle (7:21-24)**

#### **“Waging war”**

- A sinful disposition (indwelling sin) is encamped within every believer.

- The sin that dwells within is an unwelcome guest with certain tactical advantages.
  - It gets involved in everything we do.
  - It is always placing obstacles in our way.
- Indwelling sin is a complex of deceptive, devious, and diabolical strategies at war with God (Jer. 17:9-10).
- The war within between sin and the Holy Spirit is a lifetime struggle.

## **Conclusion**

**Are you a combatant or a noncombatant?**