

ject to my appetites that my reason; my spirit does not have the helm; in fact, it is not what I desire that I do; but I even do that which I hate. If, now, I do do that which I do not in my spirit desire, I consent unto the law that it is good:

“My reason this, my passion that persuades—
I see the right, and I approve it too,
Condemn the wrong, and yet the wrong pursue;”

Thus I am a continual paradox to myself. I am persuaded of the right, but as the law knows no mercy, and condemns me, I am acting contrary to it, and therefore my constant state of servitude and rebellion; but now it is no more I that do this—my reason, my inner man disapproves, but sin which dwells in me. I am well aware, brethren, that if I transgress but one of the ten commandments, there is no pardon for me. It then becomes impossible for me to do any thing by which I can make amends or atone for the past. Under Moses I can find no sacrifice for the removal of the guilt. To some other source then must I look: for I know that in me, that is in my flesh, there dwells no good thing. I feel that I am wholly condemned; for to desire what is good is easy, as my reason approves of it, but to do it I find difficult, as my passions suggest another course, and I am under their dominion. For the good which I desire, that I do not; but the evil which I desire not, that I do. Now if I do that which I do not desire, it is no longer I that do it, it is not my inner man which does it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find, that it is a law to me, that when desirous to do good, that evil is near to me. In fact, I have become so completely wedded to my appetites, that I am like my brethren of whom Isaiah speaks, who sought the Lord daily, and delighted to know his ways; they took delight in approaching the Lord, but in their hearts they were opposed to God, and so it is with me; for I delight in the law of Lord after the inner man, but then I perceive another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind; I have been tempted to sin, and have yielded, and now there is no pardon for me! The perfect law of God is such, that I can make no amends for my rebellion, and now my opposition is making me a captive to the law of sin, which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! I am like a city surrounded with an enemy holding the sword of justice over it, and at the same time intestine broils and civil war within! Who shall deliver from this body of death? From this law which makes my sin deserve death, but imparts no power to obey it whenever it is transgressed. (O, blessed be God, there is a way provided—it is through Jesus Christ our Lord. He can now be just, and yet pardon me.) To sum up then the whole argument relative to my undone state under the law, I would say, Wherefore, then, indeed, I myself serve, with my mind, my inner man, the law of God, but, with the flesh, my passions and appetites, the law of sin. But to those who are in Christ Jesus, there is now no condemnation. For the law of the Spirit of life by Christ Jesus, has freed me from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not accomplish, in that it was weak, through the flesh. God sending his own son, in the likeness of sinful flesh, accomplished, and