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## This is It

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

*So the trouble is not with the law, (the word of God). For it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right but I don't do it. Instead I do what I hate. Romans 7:14-15*

*So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to Him, the power of the lifegiving spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. Romans 8:1-2*

Every one of us can identify with the struggle that the Apostle Paul describes here in the Word of God. Many of us desire to do what is right, healthy and good but we end up doing some of the same old destructive things.

As we take personal inventory, we are able to see our faults and shortcomings and long for change. However for reasons we may not even understand, some of us fall right back into old habits and behaviors.

### We are not alone!

The struggle Paul mentions here is a part of being human; and we must not become discouraged. Instead, we must use our shortcomings to inspire new moral insights and then start the process of doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do; and in time our shortcomings will become fewer as God begins to transform our lives. There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. This word condemnation means to pronounce guilt (guilty), adverse judgment or to sentence someone to punishment. This passage in Romans 8:1-2 is one of the great affirmations of scripture.

God will never condemn us for our sins because Jesus Christ has paid the sin debt once for all of humanity. When we decide to turn our lives over to God's care we can be confident that we will not be condemned by God.

During the entire process of working on change, we may grow impatient from time to time. But don't allow that to discourage you.

Learning to wait patiently on God is an important characteristic for us to develop. God's love for us is reaffirmed every time we patiently wait and rely on Him. In this way, God helps us to hold our heads high no matter the situation, the circumstances or the struggle. God bless you all. Amen.

*Brother Eugene*