

WE'VE MET THE WRETCH: HE IS US!

Romans 7:1–25

Today's the day to be painfully honest with ourselves. Deep within we struggle with battles, temptations, and frustrations. Even though we know and love Christ, even though we have the Spirit of God at work within us, prompting us to do what is right, we still do wrong. We're not short on desire or sincerity, but when it comes to living as we should, *we blow it!* No other chapter in the Bible brings this ugly fact out of the closet, exposing it in all its reality, like this one in Paul's letter to the Romans. Stated succinctly, he declares, "*The trouble is with me, for I am . . . a slave to sin*" (7:14). He is even stronger later on, "*Wretched man that I am!*" (7:24 NASB). When Charles Haddon Spurgeon stood to preach on this awful reality, he chose this title, appropriately, "*The Monster Dragged to Light.*" Today, let's face the wretched monster head-on.

I. Theoretically, Here's Where We Stand (vv. 1–13)

- We have been freed _____
- We are no longer controlled _____

II. Experientially, Here's Why We Struggle (vv. 14–24)

- We cannot _____
- We do not _____
- We dare not _____

III. Realistically, Here's How We Respond (v. 25)

- We refuse to _____
- We rely on _____