

Wretched man.

That's what Paul said about himself. Though, he didn't wallow in that very long!

To wallow in something is to fully indulge in an emotion or situation without trying to change it.

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin."

Romans 7:24-25 NIV

WHEN did he say that? Before or after he put his trust in Christ to save him?

AFTER.

Why is that important? Because it shows us how much wallowing is acceptable for us to engage in.

Almost ZERO!

Paul wrote about his life to the Church in Galatia ...

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Galatians 2:20 NLT

Paul was saying it's no longer just 100% wretched me. In fact, it's a whole new me! Now I'm like 99% wretched me and 1% Jesus!

Where did I get that? The Bible? Well, kind of. He is the ONE who is in us, isn't He?

“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the ONE who is in

you is greater than the one who is in the world.“

1 John 4:4 NIV

I am not proposing some new kind of biblical numerology. No one knows the numbers.

“My mouth shall show forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.”

Psalms 71:15 KJV

The numbers aren't important. I'm just using them as a point of reference.

And to me, it somewhat goes along with the whole upside down way of looking at

things the kingdom of GOD is by Jesus Christ Himself.

You know, like the last shall be first, the way to greatness is to serve, take the lowest place. Love your enemies. These are just a few but you get the idea, don't you?

Life isn't fair. Not by a long shot. We who believe in the message of the Bible have an opportunity to do the same thing that Jesus did in this world.

Wait! Am I suggesting we get ourselves into enough trouble that we get crucified?

Yes, but only metaphorically speaking.

What does that mean in practical terms?

Show sacrificial love.

Yes, that's it. Just show sacrificial love to everyone today and you'll be following Jesus. That's no easy task, is it?

After all, didn't He say, "Follow Me" ?

He knew what He was saying to us. Do you have ears to hear Him say it to you today?

A wretched man would be too busy coming up with reasons why he couldn't do it. You can live your life thinking you can't do it ... and you'd be right.

GOD will let us decide. Don't wallow in your condition. The ONE in you is waiting. Stand up, brush yourself off ...

“I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”

Philippians 3:12-14 NKT

Forget the past. Look forward. Press on.
Believe what GOD says about you!

What do you see when you
look at your life?

Win
Win