

Conquering the Spiritual Tug of War

Romans 7:14-25

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ 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.

Famous and Controversial

- This scripture has one of the most famous and controversial verses in the Bible.

Vs. 19

For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Big question

- Who is this?
- The author uses the word "I" – 27 times in 12 verses.
- We can all agree on one thing - 27 "I's" is a whole lot of "I's"

Thank God for this one. Good understanding of the Bible is super helpful here.

- You can get it wrong and still live in victory
- You can get it right and live a miserable failure
- In other words, you getting one verse right or one verse wrong will not make you an overcoming conquering giant of the faith.
- Isolating one verse in the Bible to build your entire doctrine on is something cult leaders do when forming a cult.
- The Bible reinforces itself over and over and over and over and over and over again.
- There are interlapping scriptures that reinforce interlapping foundational truths of the Christian faith.
- With that said – That doesn't mean we say well this seems like it is a tough one.
- This seems like I will need to really think
- This one seems like it will require me to dig in and work some.

- And because it's challenging therefore I can never understand it and because of that I'm just going to skip it and let the chips fall where they may.
- That's the kind of thinking that makes Jesus the Master Teacher sad.
- Like a good educator. A good professor. A good teacher.
- He is saying – come on. You can do this. I have something great for you here.
- Dig a little, struggle a little, work a little because if you do what you will find is **BEAUTIFUL!**

I. The main point.

The main point here?

What is the

Romans Main Point

All sinful human beings have fallen short of the glory of God and bring daily dishonor to God and are under the wrath of God righteously. We are deserving of the wrath of God. It is just of God to pour out his wrath on sinners who bring daily dishonor to him. Yet he is wildly merciful and it is therefore possible for us sinners to be set right by God – because of Jesus' our faith in him and him alone for our salvation brings undeserved **FAVOR!!!**

Trust Christ and you get FAVOR!

Illustration

- Instead of wrath you get **FAVOR**
- Instead of punishment you get **BLESSING**
- Instead of damnation you get an **INHERITANCE**
- Instead of separation you get **UNION**
- Instead of being on the outside you are **brought inside**
- Inside to the **Banquet table of the King**
- And when you get dropped off at the front door to the castle and you start to walk to the front door – When you look down at you feet you notice something you've never seen before.
- The driveway you walk on to get to the front door is made of **GOLD!**
- You are seated with Christ at the table and you dine with **ROYALTY.**
- When the Father looks down the table and sees you sitting at **HIS** table and then decides what to make of your presence.
- He looks at **you** and then looks at **Jesus** and Jesus looks back and says – Father he is with me!
- And since the Son and the Father are one...
- The Father says – “Good” – since he is with my Son that means he is with ME.

This is the meaning of the book of Romans

- Paul’s answer to the greatest problem we have – that is sin and judgment - is that God provides a righteousness that he credits to us imputes to us credits to our account through his one and only son Jesus.
- When you are with Jesus you are with the Father.
- Jesus is your way out and your way in.
- Jesus is your way out of sin.
- Jesus is your way into right relationship with God.

This is the main point.

All the other sub points reinforce the details of the big picture.

Romans 4:5-6

⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

⁷ “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.

Unpack

- CREDITED as righteousness.
- Imputed, set right, made right, deposited into your account, counted
- As Righteous
- Forgiven
- Sins covered
- Bless is the one whose sin the LORD will NEVER count against them!

Application

- God provides a righteousness that is not our righteousness.
- He counts that “through” faith.
- It comes to us through the lane of “faith”
- It’s not ours nor is it something we earned.
- It is from God and it is a Gift and we get it because of Jesus.
- What we have to do is **BELIEVE, TRUST, RECEIVE through FAITH.**

Illustration

- Today when you get home you eat lunch. Sit down and your chair and die.
- You're not coming back. **You are dead!**
- That is a sobering thought.
- No more church services, no more Bible studies, no more theological discussions, no more serving, no more prayer meetings, **DONE**.

Question

- What are you going to do?
- You are a sinner.
- Your sin bring dishonor to God.
- What are you gonna say?
- What hope do you have?
- What will you stand on?

Romans 3:21

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Unpack

- I. **The main point**
- II. **Someone else's righteousness is deposited into my account.**

A. Warning

Romans 10:3-4

³Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. ⁴Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Unpack

1. Don't do this!!!
2. Do try to do this on your own.
3. You will self-destruct.
4. How do I know if this is what I am doing?
5. Are you thinking that by showing up today to church I get a few more brownie points.

6. And if I get really crazy and drop a few bucks in the offering plate I can get some more brownie points.
7. And then if I do something really nice this week I'll get a few more brownie points.
8. And then if I don't give that guy in traffic who cuts me off the one finger peace symbol this week, I'll get a few more brownie points.
9. And if I collect enough brownie points I can cash them in – just like at the arcade at the bowling alley - I can win a prize from God.
10. Hopefully I will collect enough so he lets me into heaven.

B. That is exactly the kind of thinking that Romans 10 warns about.

1. Don't do that!!!
2. Stay away from that!!
3. If you do that you are in TROUBLE!!

Unpack

- They did not know the righteousness of God.
- In other words - they did not know Jesus.
- They did not trust Jesus.
- So they made up their own version through their HUMAN REASONING!

Romans 10:4

For Christ has brought the Law to an end, so that everyone who believes is put right with God.

(GNT)

Application

- You and I will stand before God one day.
- The holy, blazing, glowing, fiery, sinless, one.
- Who CANNOT tolerate sin in his presence.
- What hope do you have?
- The only hope you have is that you what? BELIEVE.
- Believed in Jesus and because of that you got something
- You got a righteousness that was foreign to you, not from you.
- It was credited to you and because of that and only because of that are you SAVED.

It is a bonified miracle.

Romans 5:19

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

C. Romans 5 makes the Gospel relevant **WORLD WIDE!**

1. Adam
2. Jesus
3. Sin entered through one man - Adam
4. Sin problem was dealt with through one man - Jesus
 - a. Through obedience of Jesus.
 - 1.) Completely submitted.
 - 2.) Completely surrendered
 - 3.) Completely obeyed.
 - 4.) Completed the WORK!
 - 5.) Everything the Father asked of him he did.
 - 6.) DONE – FINISHED – OVER – ENDED.
 - 7.) ONCE AND FOR ALL
 - 8.) FOR THE WORLD!!

Many will be made righteous.

Application

- Your job
- Recognize Christ, Believe IN Christ, Surrender to Christ, Trust IN Christ,
- For the forgiveness of your sins.

I. The main point

II. Someone else's righteousness is deposited into my account.

III. Jesus takes away from me the thing that keeps me from God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.