

SERMON NOTES

Date: May 15, 2016

Title: The War Within

Text: Romans 7:14-25

Big Idea: True freedom from sin will never be found keeping the law (even though the law is good), because of the gigantic gap between the demands of the law and the sinfulness of the flesh. Only the cross of Christ can bridge that gap.

I. Introduction

Is Paul describing his life as a regenerate or unregenerate man?

Preferred Position: Paul is describing his life as a mature follower of Christ—and the life of every Christian as they wrestle with the reality of indwelling sin.

II. The War Within

A. Law vs. Flesh (vs. 14-17)

B. Desire vs. Ability (vs. 18-24)

C. Victory In Jesus (v. 25)

III. Conclusion

- Indwelling sin a normal part of the Christian experience as long as you are alive in this world and attached to this body.
- Even mature believers struggle with indwelling sin.
- Though we work hard to remove sin from our lives we can and must trust Jesus to cleanse us from it.

1. How does the reality of Paul's experience with indwelling sin encourage you in your own life?
2. List three ways you personally feel the war between your mind and flesh, between your desire to do what is right and your inability to carry it out.
3. How can you take personal responsibility for your sin even though sin dwells within you and is close at hand?
4. Obviously giving in to sinful desires cannot please God or bring about the righteous life that he requires. Based on chapter 7, how effective is legalism in fighting the flesh?

How have you observed the outcomes of legalism in your own life or the lives of others?

5. Why is it liberating to be able to be honest about your wretchedness, and certain about your forgiveness?

What happens if we forget one or the other truth?