

The War Within 2022-03-06

Romans 7:21-25

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

My achilles injury.....Body not respond to mind.

- Romans 7 - Christian's willpower alone can't overcome natural bent to do evil.
- consistent victory over indwelling sin is only possible through the power of indwelling Holy Spirit. Romans 7:14-16

When saved, get new nature but not eradicate old nature that is corrupted by sin.

- Sin never again will be your owner/master but can influence us.
 - *Of flesh/sold* not positional in Jesus Christ but realistic tendencies of old sin nature
- constant tension between sinful nature and new spiritual life.
 - conflict between sin/grace causes confusion (not understand behavior) and inner turmoil: behavior does not always match holy desires.

Agree with Law shows that law is good and that Paul is not really the one practicing sin!

Romans 7:17-20

- Not "no good at all" but no good in flesh because know God's grace is sanctifying.
 - Nor making excuse or avoid responsibility but simply acknowledging strong inward pull towards sin.....blame devil/others not our flesh.
- Not make sense: mind submits to and agrees with the Law, but flesh serves sin.

Indwelling sin operates as a law...commands, threatens, entice. Romans 7::21-23,

- old sin nature begins with mind but appeals/works through body.
 - wages cunning, relentless war with ambush, enemy posing as friend.

never underestimate sin's power or attempt to fight in own strength.

- Repetition 18-20 & 14-17 emphasizes sin is more powerful than willpower.
 - 14-24 expresses futility of trying to conquer flesh through law.

To win the war, take inner conflict seriously and cry out to Jesus for deliverance.

Romans 7:24-25,

Eisenhower quote:

- We do not despair like Paul because we do not take sin seriously or we think we have it under control.
 - cover up sin, redefine with Christian label, misinform/silence/dull conscience.

Regular defeat does not necessarily mean the person is not saved. But Christians can't live contently with sin.

- Until we hate sin, we won't turn from it. Until we reach end of self, we won't look to God.

Holy Spirit indwells so you can love law/hate sin, live a life that pleases the Lord and win battles consistently, though not perfectly/permanently in this life by:

- Seek for true joy, satisfaction, delight in fellowship with the Lord.
 - more grow in Jesus Christ, more aware of sin and more hate and want to get rid of it.
- By God's grace, stop coveting and take thoughts captive. 2 Corinthians 10:5, Galatians 5:16-18
- Through power of Holy Spirit, daily flee temptation/sin.
 - Sin is worse than suffering, but we do anything to avoid suffering but almost nothing to avoid sin....make a plan not to sin and be accountable.

Christian life is a battle, but the war is already won. Struggle is just part of journey.

- consistent victory over indwelling sin only through power of indwelling Holy Spirit.
 - When we fall, Holy Spirit lovingly helps us up. We still have God's love/grace.
 - Battle between new/old nature does not end in despair but in joyful victory.