

The Gospel Story: Who Will Set Me Free?

A Study of Romans

Romans 7:14-25

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Opening Discussion

1. How have bad experiences in the past created patterns of thinking and behaving that creep into your life in the present?
2. Do you ever feel like there is a war raging in your life between what you want to do and what you actually end up doing? Why is that?
3. Do you ever engage in thinking or behaviors that might be motivated by a desire to beat the sinful monster within into submission? Does this work? Do you think this is the route to the joyful Christian life? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. Review Romans 7:1-13. Notice the shift from the past tense in 7:1-13 and the present tense in 7:14-25. Read Romans 7:14-25. See if you can identify all the statements that seem to be inconsistent with a view that this text is referring to an unregenerate person. What are some things Paul has said about an unregenerate person in Romans 6?
2. Is the point of this text to demonstrate that the Christian life will always be a miserable struggle or to make the case that the law does not have the power to set us free? If we identify with the struggle in the text should we draw comfort in knowing we're not the only ones who struggle like this or should we focus on what the text says about why we are struggling like this? In other words, is this a text to affirm that we all struggle so hang in there or a text to open our eyes to what isn't working so we are motivated to pursue what will work?
3. Compare Galatians 2:20 and I Corinthians 15:10 with Romans 7:14-20. As a believer, what is the difference between who I am in Christ and the "sin dwelling in me?" How does our first marriage to Adam create thinking, behaviors and habits that we drag into our second marriage with Christ?

