
Study of Romans – Lesson 1

Our Struggle with Sin

Opening Prayer:

Together:

Almighty God, still our worries and quiet our minds. Help us to set aside our everyday concerns so that we might bring our whole selves to this bible study this morning. Open our ears to hear your word, our mouths to praise you, and our hearts to be filled with your Spirit. Amen.

Prelude to reading: Pastor Mark

Romans 7:13-25

¹³Did what is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, working death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure.

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. ¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Postlude to Reading: Pastor Mark

Listen to the Story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Question: Are you ever baffled by your behavior? You know the right thing to do, but you fail to do it. You resolve to avoid certain things and they become even

more attractive and enticing. Why? What keeps you from translating your desire into actions?

Group Discussion: Why is it often such a struggle to do what we know we should do?

Personal Reflection: Take a Minute and Respond

In what areas do you struggle the most to translate your desires into actions?

Romans 7

Paul explores his own inner struggles to do good and avoid evil. As we look into his mind and heart, we see a reflection of ourselves and the power that opposes us.

Closer Look:

- 1) According to verses 14-20, why does Paul feel so wretched?
- 2) Earlier in Romans Paul said that we as Christians are no longer slaves to sin. Yet here he claims he is a slave to sin: ¹⁴*For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.* How do you explain this difference?
- 3) Paul compares his struggle with sin to a war, with sin as the aggressor: ²³*but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.* What is the outcome of this war?
- 4) Why is it important to realize that only Christ can rescue us from the power of sin?

Closing:

God is here. Amen? **Amen.**
God brought us here. Amen? **Amen.**
God takes us home. Amen? **Amen.**

And, may the peace of God almighty: + Abba, Word, and Spirit,
bless you now and always. Amen? **Amen.**