

Series: Divine Paradox

Sermon: Our Struggle with Sin

Primary Text: Romans 7:14-25

Discussion guide:

- How is it that I can be a follower of Christ and yet still be entangled in sin?
- Do you think every believer shares this struggle equally? If not, why not?
- What do you know about the church in Rome?
- Why do you think it was important for Paul to level the playing field between the believers of Jewish background and those who came to Christ as Gentiles?
- In Romans Paul talks a lot about the Law? What was the Law's purpose and why is that significant?
- How do law and grace differ?
- How important is grace? And how is grace a conduit for forgiveness?
- Review our text for the message (Romans 7:14-25)
 - Can you identify any repeating patterns in this passage?
 - Where and why?
- St. Augustine wrote regarding his attraction to doing what he knew was wrong. He stole the pears simply for the thrill of being a thief. Paul basically says the same thing in our passage about doing the very things he doesn't want to do with one exceptional difference. Paul says it is "no longer I who do it but it is sin living in me that does it". What do you think Paul is really trying to say?
- Identify and Explain the three distinct stages in the process of being free from sin. Remember they all start with the letter "P"
- What are four practical things we talked about that can help every Christian keep our sinful nature in check? How do each of them help us? What are some other things could you add to the list?
- Finally what are four tools we can use to help us understand difficult or complicated passages?