

1. Intro

- Last week, we read that the Law in the Old Covenant was holy and good, but that no one was able to obey it perfectly. We no longer live under the Law; we now live under grace. God's purpose for giving the Law was to help people realize that we are sinful and fall short of God's perfect standards, and that we need the Savior, Jesus.
- Today, Paul is going to give 2 agonizing realities about our daily struggle with sin and then conclude by giving us the hope we have to overcome them.
- We'll see that... We as believers don't live up to God's righteous standards, and we will struggle with sin daily because it still lives in us. But we can indeed have victory over sin through Jesus.

2. Text

Romans 7:14-16

- Agonizing reality 1: We as Christians still struggle with sin. We don't live up to God's righteous standards, and we do things we know are wrong.
 - Paul declares that the law (God's righteous standards) isn't the problem; he says that **he** is the problem!

Romans 7:17-23

- Agonizing reality 2: Sin still lives in us and it relentlessly wages war against our mind (new life).

Romans 7:24

Romans 7:25

- Our only hope in order to have victory over sin is Jesus.

3. Application

- Dependence on Jesus is our only hope to have victory over sin. But we don't always truly seek His help in our daily battle with the sin nature. Instead, we have the tendencies to do things like:
 - Make more rules for ourselves.
 - Focus on "don't sin".
 - Try harder.
 - Lower God's standards to a level we can keep.
 - Blame others for our sin (we are victims).
- While these sound legitimate, they can actually distract us from truly looking to and depending on Jesus for victory over a life dominated by sin.