

## Romans Part 17

### “The War Within”

So, great job by the teaching team the last couple of weeks taking us through the book of Romans. We enter now what I think is some of the most important chapters in the entire bible, Romans 5-8.

All of us have experienced the tug of war of wanting to please the Lord, have all the good intentions of wanting to live pure, righteous lives, but feeling like I am swimming against the tide.

I can hold on for a while, I can gut it out for a while, I can keep myself pure for a while, but eventually I will grow weary and give in and give up. We need to come to the point that we understand and except our own weakness or I will never live what I call the victorious Christian life.

What Paul is trying to show is that it is impossible to live a godly life without constant, active help from God. When you analyze the condition of the human, we are without hope without the power, grace and mercy of our Father who created us. Any Christian who has struggled with addictions or overwhelming compulsions or bondages, if you have ever wondered why so many fail to live an overcoming life, is going to find the answers in the next few chapters.

Frankly, people are trapped. We are giving up, becoming phony, and people are desperate for someone to show them how to do what Paul is going to show here.

***Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law.<sup>14</sup> Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like***

***the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification. <sup>17</sup> For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.) <sup>18</sup> Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. <sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, <sup>21</sup> so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:12-21***

So, I want to back up and take a look at some key verses so we can understand just what is being said here.

***Vs. 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life***

One deliberate act by Adam brought death to the entire human race. In contrast, one deliberate act by Jesus brought salvation and justification so that all of us could experience the "resurrection" life; not just after death, that is we all go to heaven, but in life, in that we have victory here and now...

Adam's sin may have passed directly and without choice to all of us, Jesus' one act of is different in that it does not automatically flow to us. We may be tied to Adam in that we are all humans, we are not all physical descendants of Jesus. In order for us to benefit from His ministry, we have to choose, by faith to become His spiritual descendants.

Vs 19 ***<sup>19</sup> For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.***

As physical descendants of Adam, we have inherited through sin, the physical and spiritual separation from God. Before sin, God physically met and talked to Adam and Eve, we no longer can do that because of sin and now we have a natural tendency to be selfish and rebellious. We all commit our own sins, we can't blame anyone else for that, but the inclination to sin we inherited...

Vs 20 ***Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,***

When God gave the law to Moses, the degree of our sins became even more apparent, now the law was written down, "want to be perfect? Here is how far you have to go." Before the law we only had our conscience to guide us, but when the law was written down, now we could no longer claim ignorance, it was in plain language. As their knowledge increased, so did the accountability; we have a decision to make.

The law made us see our lives from God's perspective, we can see how sinful we have really become. Not to shame us but to show us how we need His mercy and grace.

### **1. What Adam did.**

- He caused us all to be born into a world that was void of the presence of the Holy Spirit. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ***<sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; <sup>21</sup> because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole***

***creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.  
Romans 8:18-22***

- The intimate relationship with God was broken.
- Adam passed his rebellious spirit to be passed to us. We are very good at sinning.
- This rebellion infected even our bodies and so we die!

## **2. Three types of sin.**

- Sin. (hamartia) the inward disposition of rebellion against God.
- Transgressions (parabasis) a willful violation of a known law.
- Misstep (paraptoma) a blunder or false step. To fall beside or step off the path.

## **3. What the law did.**

This is so important to understand, what did the law do? What was the purpose of the law?

- it turned missteps (ignorant mistakes) into transgressions and thereby increased my guilt. I no longer had an excuse for making a mistake, it was clearly laid out in the law.
- It actually stirred up rebellion : “how dare you tell me what to do or tell me no!” because I had the law, black became very black!
- It exposed the rebellion, and that is what it is, sin is really rebellion, think about that, it is no longer just a choice, it is rebellion exposed! But also since my rebellion is exposed, so is God’s grace and love for us.

## **4. How did God make us?**

***Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:23***

We are a 3 part being;

- Body
- Soul
- Spirit--- this is the human spirit, not the Holy Spirit in you...

## **5. What did Jesus do, and what will He do?**

What God did by sentencing His son to the cross and raising Him from the dead rescues us in three areas;

- Judicial--- I am now found innocent in God's court
- Spiritual--- I repent of that rebellion and my spirit submits to God.
- Physical--- until I die or Jesus comes back, my body and my mind is going to continue to be rebel and I have to continue to subdue it...

Our spirit may love and long to be with God, my body and mind are going to continue to be the problem, the rebellion is now in my flesh, the spirit man is new and so now I have a war going on inside me, the renewed spirit wants to obey, the body and mind do not.

***I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. Galatians 5:16-17***

***Skip down to verse 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.***

This truth of the war on the inside is humbling and also freeing; humbling to realize our best is doomed to failure, no matter how hard we try, we are never going to be enough! I will always have to lean on God and as long as I lean on myself I will always fail.

The next few chapters are going to unpack just how we can be free, not by our own efforts but by what Jesus has already done for us.

I wish I had time to unpack all of this today, but this is going to take all of the teaching team to bring the truth out, but man is it good...

So as the worship team comes back up, take two minutes, find someone and answer this question, have you experienced the “war within” where your spirit wants to do one thing but your mind and body wants to do another. Can you share that with someone?