Attention:
Many presidents played a pivotal role in America. Geroge Washington set up the American government after the Revolutionary War. Not quite 70 years later, Abraham Lincoln would set precedence by ending slavery—the Emancipation Proclamation. Franklin Roosevelt brought program relief, such as Unemployment Relief and Social Security, restoring confidence during and following the Great Depression. America will continue looking for great leaders, while people are expecting deliverance in political parties, the ultimate salvation is in Christ Jesus.

Need:
The internal battle of a person who knows what is right, desires to do what is right, yet finds himself wrestling with the power of sin. Willpower alone cannot solve humanity's deepest spiritual problem. Our hope is in Jesus Christ, whose saving work and Spirit empower us to live differently.

Background:
The writer of this letter is identified as Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:1). He addresses the letter to all in Rome, called to be saints (Rom. 1:7). Scholars believe that there were many churches at Rome, and therefore it was addressed to the saints, not to a specific church. Paul wrote this letter at the end of his third missionary journey from Corinth in A.D. 57 or 58. Paul wrote this letter to give an elaborate explanation of salvation and the gospel he preached. Paul also wanted to diffuse any conflict that might have arisen between Jews and Gentiles; there seemed to be nagging pestilences that followed Paul in hopes to dissuade followers of Christ. These were mainly Judaizers (Gal. 5:1, 8; Phil. 3:18).

Who was the transformed, apostle Paul? Saul of Tarsus got saved and was given the name Paul. Before this, he grew up in a province of Cilicia. He had the privilege of being a Roman citizen (which costed lots of money). Paul was a Pharisee, and the son of a Pharisee. He was taught under Gamaliel, also a Pharisee. They were legalistic and hyper-religious. Paul's message was faith in Jesus Christ. Before his conversion, he did much to try to destroy the church, and he was very zealous in doing so. Paul saw Christians as a thorn in the side of Judaism, which practiced a sacrificial system. He believed Jesus was a mere man who deserved to be executed for making Himself equal with God. Following his conversion, many Christians did not believe that he was genuinely saved (Acts 9:13-14). Paul is an example of having a pivotal change through deliverance when he had an encounter with Jesus Christ.

We can see throughout Israel's history that their flesh ruled them from disobedience, which marked their slavery in Egypt. The Lord sent Moses to deliver them to the Promised Land, then Joshua. When Moses and Joshua died, they began doing what was right in their own eyes, rather than the will of God (Judges 2:10-12). During the kingdom years, God sent prophets to guide the people, but they would kill many of the prophets, too. By the end of

the Old Testament, God became still among His people, and they experienced 400 silent years, where God spoke to no one by dream or vision. The Father would send His own Son to turn them to repentance and atone for their sins. Now the Spirit of God dwells in the heart of every believer. Yet your flesh still succumbs you to sin. Many people are looking for someone to deliver America. The truth is, Christ Jesus is the only Savior that saves you.

1. **The Struggle of Comprise** (v. 21).
    a. Paul's desire was to do God's will, but his sin was plaguing him.
        i. He wants to please God, but sin is still present.
    b. **David** is described as a man after God's own heart, failed to adultery/murder.
        i. *"…He (God) gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"* (Acts 13:22, NKJV).
    c. The frog in boiling water—the danger is when sin stops bothering you.
        i. Your standards lower, your convictions weaken.
    d. "Compromise begins when you start making peace with what God is trying to deliver you from."
    e. Never make peace with sin.

2. **The Struggle Between Two Natures** (v. 22-23).
    a. Paul describes a conflict at war with his mind.
    b. Tug of War—the flesh wants satisfaction but your spirit sanctification.
    c. You cannot conquer what you are unwilling to confront.
        i. *"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 5:17, NKJV).
    d. What you once prayed for deliverance from, you begin making room for.
        i. *"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."* (James 1:14–15, NLT).
    e. The danger of compromise is that eventually you become comfortable entertaining what you once resisted.

3. **The Struggle for Deliverance** (v. 24-25).
    a. Paul feels wretched, miserable, and needed deliverance.
    b. No matter how strong **Samson** was, he still needed a Savior.
    c. Quicksand—when stuck, the more you try the deeper you sink.
        i. You need someone outside to pull you out.
    d. Deliverance begins when you stop making excuses for what is holding you captive.
        i. *"For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."* (Philippians 1:23, NKJV).
    e. You cannot defeat in your own strength what only Jesus has the power to break.