

Adult Bible Discovery- July 12, 2020

This study has been designed for you to do on your own or with the members of your family.

Tommy Lasorda, that renowned theologian and former LA Dodger manager, once described his battle with bad habits this way. "I took a pack of cigarettes from my pocket, stared at it and said, 'Who's stronger, you or me?' The answer was me, so I stopped smoking. Then I took a vodka martini and said to it, 'Who's stronger, you or me?' The answer again was me, so I quit drinking. Then I went on a diet. I looked at a big plate of linguine with clam sauce and said, 'Who's stronger, you or me?' A little clam looked up at me and answered, 'I am.' I can't beat linguine."

Starter Questions:

Is there a battle in your life that you know right now that you just cannot win?

What temptation is banging on the door of your heart and just won't stop?

What is that sin that you just seem to come back to over and over again?

What are those temptations that you give in to time and time again?

Read Romans 7:14-25

One quote from Martin Luther on the phrase, "but I am carnal, sold under sin": *"That is the proof of the spiritual and wise man. He knows that he is carnal, and he is displeased with himself; indeed, he hates himself and praises the Law of God, which he recognizes because he is spiritual. But the proof of a foolish, carnal man is this, that he regards himself as spiritual and is pleased with himself."*

Look at Romans 7:14-16

- What does the word carnal mean?
- The law is spiritual which means that it reflects God's holy character.
- The sense here is that Paul found himself doing things of which he did not approve.
- Paul's new nature defends the idea that the perfectly righteous law is not responsible for his sin. He now longs to honor the law and keep it!

Look at Romans 7:17-18

- Paul is saying that his sin did not flow out of his new redeemed self, but from his unredeemed humanness.
- No man's flesh follows God. Man's flesh must be crucified for the spirit to reign.
- Read Galatians 5:24-26
- Paul is trying to say that the flesh of man is a hindrance to him. We must somehow get our flesh and the lusts of the flesh under subjection to the spirit of God in us.
- So, according to the Galatians passage above, how do we get our flesh and lusts of the flesh under subjection?

Look at Romans 7: 19-23

- We see that the flesh has no desire to good, but only evil.
- Hear the cry of a man who desires to please God. Read Psalm 19:12-14
- The believer's justified, new inner self no longer sides with sin, but agrees with the law of God against sin.

Look at Romans 7:24-25

We now see Paul's point in all of this. There is no way within ourselves that we can overcome the problems between our flesh wanting to sin and our spirit knowing sin is wrong. The only solution is....wait for it...JESUS CHRIST!

- What does the word deliver mean?

“Body of this death”: The believer's unredeemed humanness. A tradition says that an ancient tribe near Tarsus tied the corpse of a murder victim to its murderer, allowing its spreading decay to slowly infect and kill the murderer. Maybe Paul has that image in mind here.

Finally, Paul is certain that Christ will (and has) redeemed him. The final part of verse 25 summarizes the struggle which Paul has described.

Ponder and think on these things this week:

- You thought the problem was that you didn't know what to do to save yourself – but the law came as a teacher, taught you what to do and you still couldn't do it. You don't need a teacher; you need a Savior.
- You thought the problem was that you weren't motivated enough, but the law came in like a coach to encourage you on to do what you need to do and you still didn't do it. You don't need a coach or a motivational speaker, you need a Savior.
- You thought the problem was that you didn't know yourself well enough. But the law came in like a doctor and perfectly diagnosed your sin-sick problem but it couldn't heal you. You don't need a doctor; you need a Savior.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for sending us your son, Jesus Christ, our SAVIOR!