



“So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:21-25a-NIV)

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, You are Almighty and all powerful, You are the giver of all that is good. Help me to love You with all my heart, strengthen me in true faith, and provide me with all that I need, and keep me safe in Your loving care, through Jesus Christ Your Son, my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN



Order of Worship – The Common Service Without L.S. – pg. 15

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 477 vss. 1-3 / TLH 430**

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Exodus 33:12-23 – The Glory of The Lord

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 145 (Lit. pg. 119 – Sung by Cantor)

Second Lesson – Romans 7:14-25a – Struggling with Sin

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 11:25-30 – Comfort for the Weary

The Apostle’s Creed – (Pg. 19)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 385 / TLH 342**

Sermon Text: Romans 7:14-25a

Sermon Theme: A Prisoner – Rescued by God.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer (Traditional Version)

Hymn **C.W. 249 / TLH 20**

Collect / Prayer (pg. 25)

Benediction

Hymn **C.W. 477 vs. 4 / TLH 430**

As You Leave The Church Building You are Entering the Mission Field.

Dear Guests! – Welcome to St. John’s! It is an honor and joy that you were able to come and join together with us in public worship of our Lord. If you would like to learn more about the Holy Bible or would like to become a member, please contact the Pastor either via phone or e-mail as noted on the back cover.

SERMON TEXT: Romans 7:14-25a

Vs. 14 - We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

(- πεπραμενος – πιπρασκω - Sell / Sold as a slave to – BAG pg. 659)

Vs. 15 - I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Vs. 16 - And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

Vs. 17 - As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

Vs. 18 - **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.** For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Vs. 19 - For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Vs. 20 - Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Vs. 21 - So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

Vs. 22 - For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

Vs. 23 - but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and **making me a prisoner of the law of sin** at work within my members.

(- αιχμαλωτιζοντα - Scattered as Captives, Make Captive, Carry away, mislead, deceived - prisoner)

Vs. 24 - What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Vs. 25a - Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

GREETING: Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal. 5:24-25)

You may have heard someone on a news report or read it on their Face-Book page that they thought that COVID-19 was not serious, but then after they came down with the COVID-19 virus themselves, or after one of their friends or relatives died from the virus, then they would plead with people to take COVID-19 seriously.

Today we hear the Apostle Paul as he lays out for us the seriousness of sin.

Before Paul was the Apostle Paul – he was known as Saul of Tarsus.

As Saul of Tarsus, he stood there in full agreement at the stoning of Stephen. (Acts 7:58; Acts 8:1; Acts 22:20)

Saul of Tarsus then went from house to house dragging off Christian men and women to put them into prison. (Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1; Acts 9:21; Acts 22:4; Acts 26:10-11; I Cor. 15:9; Gal. 1:13;)

It was then on the road to Damascus, that the Lord Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus and led / brought Paul to faith in Christ Jesus, as his One and Only Savior from sin. (Acts 9:1-31)

The Apostle Paul even wrote to his fellow Pastor Timothy explaining how bad he felt about himself: **I Timothy 1:15 – “Here is a trustworthy saying, that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst.”**

Do you think that there were ever any days or nights when the Apostle Paul felt pain and remorse in his heart for doing what he once thought was correct, but then learned how wrong he was.

In this section of Paul's letter to the Romans the Apostle Paul gives an in-depth account of the seriousness of sin and the struggle that resulted from sin.

Paul writes:

Vs. 14 - We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.

(- πεπραμενος – πιπρασκω - Sell / Sold as a slave to)

The fact that the Apostle Paul had sin living in him, led him to have this constant conflict inside:

Vs. 15 - I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

Vs. 16 - And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

Vs. 17 - As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me.

Vs. 18 - I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

Vs. 19 - For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

Even though the Apostle Paul had this struggle going on within himself, it is a good thing.

When the Apostle Paul was brought to faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, God entered his heart.

As an unbeliever, the Apostle Paul did not have the Holy Spirit living in his heart.

As an unbeliever, the Apostle Paul only did not have that struggle between good and evil.

As Saul he only did evil in the eyes of the Lord. (I Corinthians 2:14)

Picture the cartoon of the person having a devil on one shoulder, and the Good Angel on the other shoulder. Paul was stuck in between. The battle inside raged.

Do you ever have that battle between doing what God wants and doing what the devil wants you to do?

That is Good!

The unbeliever does not have that struggle. The unbeliever only has the evil angel, the sinful nature.

The good things that an unbeliever does are simply done to please themselves or someone else or to look good on the outside. They are not done to please God.

God in His Holy, Inspired, Infallible, Inerrant Word clarifies more than once the seriousness of sin and the depth of sin.

The Psalmist who writes: **“Surely I was sinful from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”** (Ps. 51:5)

At the time of Noah we are told that: **“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”** (Gen. 6:5)

The Apostle Paul also wrote in his letter to the Ephesians:

Ephesians 2:1-10 – We were **dead** in our trespasses and sins. No able to move spiritually, like a dead animal lying on the side of the road.

Isaiah writes:

Isaiah 64:6-7 – Our Righteous acts are like filthy rags.

And so as we hear these passages together with the words written by the Apostle Paul we may think that there is no hope.

But the Apostle Paul gives the answer for our hope. It is short and sweet and to the point!

Vs. 24 - What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Vs. 25a - Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!

God rescued us! God rescued you! God rescued me from the prison of sin and certainty of hell, and gives us the free gift of heaven through Christ Jesus our Lord!

Jesus is Lord. Jesus is God, Who took on flesh and blood, becoming fully human as the God / Man.

Jesus did battle with Satan in the wilderness as well as at other times during His earthly ministry, and Jesus kept the law perfectly every time. Jesus fulfilled the perfection that God demands. Jesus fulfilled the law perfectly for us, for you, for me, for the Whole World. (John 3:16; Colossians 2:13-15; II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:21-22; Hebrews 4:15; I John 3:5; I John 2:1-2)

It was on the cross of Calvary that Jesus made full payment for the sin of the entire world as He cried out: "It Is Finished!" (John 19:30)

We know and can be certain that Christ's payment for sin was acceptable before God the Father because on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead victoriously.

Satan and death are defeated.

Because of Jesus, no matter how wretched and broken you may feel some days here on planet earth, you can look forward to heaven where there is not more sin or death or pain or struggles with sin. (Rev. 21:1-7; Isaiah 11:5-16; Isaiah 65:17-25)

In heaven we will "Not Be Able to Sin"

(NOT ABLE TO SIN – HEAVEN = CONFIRMED IN HOLINESS - Non posse peccare)

Because of Jesus, you can look forward to those new glorified bodies. (Philippians 3:20-21; Job 19:25-27; Luke 9:28-31)

Do you know anyone who does not take - Sin – God – Judgment Day – Heaven – Hell seriously?

We can take our Salvation in Christ Jesus seriously as we say with the Apostle Paul / formerly Saul:

Vs. 24 - What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

Vs. 25a - Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! AMEN!

THEME: What Lives Inside Me? A Wretched Man, Rescued By God!

Who is Your Master, Sin or God?

Why Do I Keep On Sinning, When I Do NOT Want To?