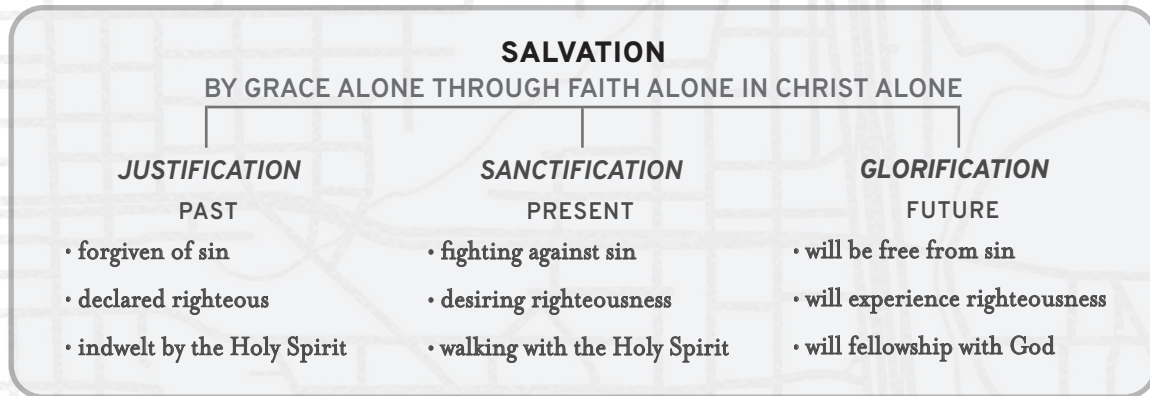




The War Within

ROMANS 7:1-25



I. The Law exposes a _____ within each person.

What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." v. 7

II. The more the Law is exposed, the more our _____ nature is exposed.

But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. v. 8a

III. Our sinful nature continues to war against our _____ nature.

For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. vv. 18-19

*Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! vv. 24-25a*

1 Surrender to the _____ that we are helpless and hopeless by ourselves.

2 Surrender to _____, the only one who can win the war within.

3 Surrender to the _____ to seize every opportunity for small spiritual victories.

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh,
for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Galatians 5:16-17*

ROAD TO
REDEMPTION

ROAD TO REDEMPTION

DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 7:1-25. Describe an instance when you realized there was a prohibition against something and it made you want to do exactly what was prohibited.
2. How does the Law aggravate our sin nature?
3. Every Christian has at times regretted their inability to stop sinning. We tend to think the problem stems from our own weakness, but how is our inability to stop sinning actually a misunderstanding of God's strength instead?
4. After the new birth, immature believers often experience a frustrating cycle of being defeated by sin because they yield to the old nature. How would you advise them if they came to you for wisdom and encouragement?
5. Why is it important to recognize that believers have both a corrupt old nature and a redeemed new nature?

Why is it erroneous and spiritually dangerous to teach that believers can get to a place of complete victory where there is no internal battle?
6. Share any insights from the sermon that were new in your understanding of our war with sin.

"The only way to break the cycle and stop sinning is to accept the fact that we cannot stop sinning. This may seem contradictory, but if a person does not stop trying to save himself, he will never rest in the knowledge that God has saved him. The joy of salvation comes from accepting the fact that God's grace covers us, that He will change us and conform us to the image of Christ, and that it is His work, not ours (Rom 8:29; Phil 1:6, 2:13; Heb 13:20-21). Once this reality is truly grasped, sin loses its power. We no longer feel the impulse to turn to sin as a means of temporary relief from anxiety, because the anxiety and pressure has been relieved once for all by Christ (Heb 10:10, 14). Then, the good works we accomplish in faith are done because of love and joy rather than out of fear or duty."

GOTQUESTIONS.ORG

"Christians and non-Christians alike struggle, but they struggle with very different things. The non-Christian's enemy is God and ultimately the struggle of the unbeliever is his struggle with God. His distress and troubles are a manifestation of the wrath of God. We were born in our transgressions and sin; we were at enmity with God—sin is not the problem. For the Christian, sin is the enemy. And that changes only at conversion so that the struggle Paul is describing is his personal struggle with sin as a believer. ... There is an intense struggle going on within the Christian. Conversion to Christ does not instantly solve all our problems. It even results in some problems we had never experienced as unbelievers."

BOB DEFFINBAUGH

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.



ELDER AND DEACON

CANDIDATES Scan this QR code to see our full list of Elder and Deacon nominations. This list has been unanimously approved

by our Board of Elders, and there you'll also find the constitutional requirements for these leadership positions. If you are a constitutional member of Christ Chapel, you'll receive a voting link on Friday, Aug. 23 to cast your vote by Sunday, Aug. 25. Election results will be announced at our annual meeting held on Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. in the Oak Room.

FORT WORTH CAMPUS NIGHT Our heart at Christ Chapel is to create a church family that is familiar, no matter the size. On Sunday, August 18, at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary, a Fort Worth Campus Night will be hosted for all of us to get to know each other better, see familiar faces, meet more of the staff and walk away knowing a little more about the place we be, make and reach together. Let us know you're coming by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/campusunight.

BAND OF BROTHERS If you had an audience with God, what would you say? Join Band of Brothers as they look at Job's conversation and journey with God during their fall study, *Searching for God in the Land of UZ*. Wrestling through the topics of God's sovereignty, His character and how our view of Him impacts our view of the world and ourselves. Claim a seat at Band of Brothers fall study at www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

WOMEN IN THE WORD Solomon was the wisest man the world had ever seen until Jesus came to earth. He loved the Lord, and his greatest achievement was building the Temple in Jerusalem. Peace, prosperity and influence marked Solomon's reign over Israel, yet his splendid reign ended in despair and decline. What happened? Join us in September to discover the answer as we study Solomon's life at *Women in the Word!* Sign up today at www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Find steps to financial freedom, and a biblical perspective on budgeting, during this nine-week course! Find details and dates by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fpu.

MUSIKGARTEN Musikgarten is where a love for music and musical skills are born through active movement and songs. We'd love to have you and your family join us for this fall semester! Find more details and register at www.ccbcfamily.org/musikgarten.



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT

CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text GIVE to 24253 to get started.