

ROMANS SEASON 2

HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- Thanksgiving just happened. Hopefully you had a chance to rest and celebrate. How do you like to rest and recharge?
 - If you could send a letter to your ten-year-old self with some advice, what would be included in it?
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TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Paul has done his best to show how a follower of Jesus should relate to sin and obedience. In chapter seven, he's going to get honest about it not being easy. In fact, Paul describes it as a war. If we're not going to be overly idealistic about sanctification, but also not despondent about it, we need to see the battle as Paul sees it and wage war like he does.

The New Way and the Old Way

READ: Romans 7:1-6

DISCUSS: Why do you think the law, by itself, was incapable of making us produce fruit for God?

Paul says that all people are bound to the law. Israel said it would keep the Mosaic covenant, and all humanity has the law written on their hearts in a measure (remember Romans 2). Everyone failed to keep it and deserved punishment. But then Jesus came, fulfilled the law, and also died to pay the punishment. That means that faith in him frees us from the law, and enables us to walk in the the new way of the Spirit. But... the old way doesn't leave that easily.

The Old Way Has Lost But Still Fights

READ: Romans 7:7-15

DISCUSS: Can you think of a time in your own life where sin "seized an opportunity" by using God's rules?

If Paul had jumped straight from verse six to chapter eight, we might have thought it was simple and easy—you just leave the old way behind and walk in the new way. It's not. Sin still lurks in our flesh, trying to make us mistrust God. Sin seizes opportunities by exploiting the weakness of our flesh. What's more, it uses God's commandments to do it. Just like the serpent convinced Adam and Eve that God was holding out on them, sin tries to arouse sinful passions by convincing us of the same thing.

GRACE SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

The Way We Win

READ: Romans 7:16-25

DISCUSS: Why do you think Paul is making this so personal?

The experience of sanctification is like a battle between the flesh and what Paul describes as the “inner being.” There’s a part of you that delights in God and his instruction—the inner man. There’s also sin at work in our flesh. Paul doesn’t say he’s not accountable for what sin does in his flesh, but he does make a separation. Although sin wages war against our inner man, our inner man is our fundamental identity, and God is bringing it out more and more. Jesus will deliver us from the war raging in the body of death, because he defeated death through his resurrection.

CHANGE APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS

- In what areas of your life does sin try to seize opportunities? How can you be on guard by delighting in God and his instruction?
- Do you tend to be overly optimistic about the battle with sin (not taking it seriously enough), or do you tend to let your sin define you (not taking your new identity seriously enough)?
- What about this passage really encourages you in the battle against sin?

PRAYER RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Spend some time praying to stir up faith in the battle against sin.
- Pray for strength in areas of life that are particularly vulnerable in battles against sin.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?