Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Romans - The Righteous Will Live by Faith
Chapter 7 – "Trick or Treat"
Drue Warner
11-1-26

PRIMARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS - *"The righteous will live by faith."* – Romans 1:17

THEMES

CH. 1-3	Depravity, Justice, and Grace
CH. 4-5	Faith – Origins and Impact (O.T. Reflections > Abraham and Adam)
CH. 6-7	**Living in Grace – motivation, <u>frustration</u>, and salvation**

LAST WEEK (CH. 6)

- Died to sin and raised to newness of life.
- Slaves to sin > Slaves to righteousness (God)

"Through faith in Christ, you are a new amazing creation with a new beautiful identity, a new way of deeply satisfying life, a new loving authority, and a new confident and joyful hope of eternal life."

TODAY'S MESSAGE PURPOSE

The primary purpose of today's message from Romans 7 is ***to discover how to be encouraged, hopeful, and victorious, in spite of our propensity to screw it up bigtime.***

TEXT (Romans 7:1-25) // CONTEXT: As a result of Justification by Faith, we have received 1) Peace with God 2) Purpose in Suffering 3) Poured out Love 4) Perfect Representation, and *we have died to sin, buried and raised with Christ to new life SO THAT, we will walk in newness of life.*

- **TODAY - *We are called and brought into a new way of living that is longer pleasing to self (the flesh) but pleasing to God (the Spirit).***
    - *Ironically, when we please God, we are more deeply satisfied than if we prioritize ourselves.*

<u>End of story</u>? Live happily ever after? <u>Not so much</u>. The war is just beginning! 😊

Romans 7:1-2, 4-6 (Dead to the Law, Alive to the Spirit)

Do you not know, brothers and sisters—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives? 2 For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law that binds her to him.

4 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in

us, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit (Jer. 31:33 Law written on our heart), and not in the old way of the written code (Law).

1. Set Free to Serve (vs. 1-6) ***Drue's Summary***
When we were married to the Law, we were bound to the Law, and our sinful passions were aroused by the Law bearing fruit to death. But now that we have died to the Law, we are released from the Law that bound us and set free to serve God in the power of His Spirit.
We've been set free, but we still battle.

ILLUSTRATION (OUR DOG, JOY): One morning this past week, Micah was leading our 85 lb. Jet Black Golden Doodle, Joy, out of the house to go for a walk. She didn't want to go, so she sat down and started pulling. As Micah pulled back, Joy's collar slid over her neck and off her head. She was free! She could run and go do whatever she wanted! But, do you know what she did? She panicked! Her collar was off. That was her identity, her safety, and she went straight to Micah, sat down, and basically begged him to put her collar back on her. The thing that brought about restraint and limited her freedom, is also the thing that she loves, her identity, her safety. We're the same way. We were set free from the Law, but we continue to go back and put our head in that collar.

Romans 7:7-8,11 (The Law is good)
7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting. For apart from the law, sin was dead…
11 For **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, **deceived me**, and through the commandment put me to death.

2. The Law is Good (vs. 7-13) ***Drue's Summary***
The Law is not bad. It's good! Purpose: 1) Mirror 2) Restraint 3) Guide

If it weren't for the Law, we wouldn't be able to identify our sin. But sin, being exposed to the Law, was like gasoline on that fire. As soon as my flesh heard, "Don't," it was aroused to want to "Do!"
ILLUSTRATION: "No Fishing!" sign at the lake.

My flesh, being aroused to sin (thinking it would bring life and satisfaction), tricked me and brought death and destruction. Was the good Law responsible for my death? No! It was sin that used the Law to deceive and put me to death.

Romans 7:14-20 (I'm not good)
14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do… 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not.

19 For the good that I want (spirit), I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20 But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me.

3. Powerless (vs. 14-20) ***Drue's Summary***

Even though my flesh has been put to death, I am still impacted by its lingering effects. God has given me a new heart that desires to please Him and do His will, but the effects of sin still often win out over my desires. And I hate it! I hate that the very thing I don't want to do, I do. I hate that the things I do are not what I want to do. I am constantly grieved in my heart because my actions and my desires are so often out of alignment. I know that it's not the new me (living by the Spirit) that does these things but the lingering effects of the old me (the flesh).

- **NOTE: How do we know that Paul is not talking about his life before Christ?** Because he recognizes the fact that he is "unspiritual," and he talks here about how much he loves and delights in God's Law.

Whereas previously, I was completely enslaved to my sinful desires, now I'm in an all-out war, of which many of the battles are lost. In my Spirit, I rejoice in God's Law, but in my actions (and flesh), I still give into sin.

Romans 7:24 (Despairing)
What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body
that is subject to death?

4. Despairing (vs. 24) ***Drue's Summary***

I'm <u>SO frustrated</u> almost to the point of despair. What can I do? How can I win this battle?

REMINDER… TODAY'S PURPOSE
How can I be encouraged, hopeful, and victorious in day-to-day life, in spite of our propensity to screw it up bigtime?

1. **Will power?** **Bob Newhart –** ***Fear of being buried alive in a box.*** **"Stop it!"** (Doesn't work)

2. **Community** ***"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety, it's connection."***
   - Johann Hari ("Chasing the Scream," author / TED Talk)
   - study of rats had access to water, and also water laced with a drug
   - Rats in isolation went to the bottle with the drug
   - Rats in community went to the bottle with the water (some of them tried the bottle with the drug, but none chose it over the plain water)

   - **Drue's community groups (see photos):**
     Mon) Harold's house **Tues)** Midweek Connect **Wed)** Men's Group **Thurs)** Horse's Mouth

3. **Still lacking…**

We've heard about the "trick." Here's the treat…

5. Powerful (vs. 25a)
"Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

CONCLUSION

In Christ, we are RESCUED from our wretchedness, our lack of ability, our lack of will-power, and our lack of self-discipline to do the things that we know we should do but don't.

In Christ, even though we DAILY screw things up bigtime, He got it right ALL THE TIME, and has given us the ability, will-power, self-discipline to overcome, but even when we don't, because He did, we still get the victory. We win!

And THAT'S Good News!