

## 10.23.22 / God's Gift of His Incarnate Son / Romans 7:14-25

I wonder... How many of you had a great week? How many of you had a crummy week?

I am a die hard optimist.

**Sermon series:** In the midst of difficult, we are given gifts: God's Empowering Gifts of the **Son, the Spirit, Hope, and Love**. Rom 7 & 8.

I believe that once anyone looks around long enough and does some self-reflection, you come to the conclusion that the world is broken. Whether or not you're ready to admit that **you** are broken, you can see that there is brokenness all around you and it is making life difficult. You see and experience on some level the innate battle between good and evil, between right and wrong. So many of our great stories in literature seek to creatively illustrate this reality. From the Lord of the Rings to the Wingfeather series to the Marvel Universe movies – **they all creatively** illustrate a core battle between good and evil. It's a battle all around us and even inside of us.

Paul describes it this way: **Romans 7:14-25**.

**Paul is describing the battle** that I believe you and I... see and experience every day on some level. He describes this battle actually going on inside of him.

- Sin nature vs. Spirit
- Law of sin vs. Law of mind
- Old self vs. New self

The creation account gives **us** the origin story of this battle: **Adam and Eve - following creator vs. rebelling against creator**

Since Adam and Eve chose to rebel against creator God, human kind ever since is born with the tendency to rebel against creator God and is, in fact, **stuck in that tendency to rebel against our creator**. The bible calls it sin. Our 4/5 graders recently have been learning this definition for sin: **to think, speak, or behave in a way that is against God and his commands**. *See Romans 3:23*.

### 1. We are stuck in our rebellion.

Ever since Adam and Eve started down the road of rebellion, human kind is born with a tendency to rebel against God. In fact **we are stuck in that tendency**.

**Have you ever been stuck?**

Math problem ("**that will take too long, I'd rather figure it out on my own**"), directions, getting a tire off...

**I was stuck.**

Paul is telling us that we are stuck in our tendency to sin. We cannot break free. Paul illustrates this by giving voice to his own battle.

He speaks of himself as two opposing sides.

“What I (spirit) want to do I (sinful nature) do not do.” Inner battle...

- Spirit vs. Sin nature
- New self vs. Old self
- Follow Creator God vs Rebel against Creator God

*Drawing* - There is a battle inside. And since that battle exists in every one of us (see Rom 1:20), that battle is not only in us but all around us. *More drawing.*

CASA, War, Human Trafficking, Immigration... We see it all around us and if honest, we recognize it **in us.**

“Who will rescue me from this body of death?”

“Who can heal this world of pain and brokenness?” **We are stuck!**

*Pause on this dilemma for a moment.*

### **The Law**

Paul also says a few things about the law.

- The Law is spiritual – from the spirit – from the Lord.
- We (the sinful nature in us) are not spiritual – not from Spirit.
- The law (from the Spirit) identifies our rebellion (sin). It calls it out. It sheds light on it. **No wonder why a lot of people don’t like laws. The law identifies our rebellion.**

**What’s the law?** Love the Lord your God with all your heart soul and mind. Ten Commandments... Matthew 5-7 further elaborates.

Are we keeping the law? No. The law is exposing our rebellion...

Our response... to the law:

**Ignore the law:** “I don’t have to obey God.” Ignore the law.

**Keep the law:** “I can do it.” I can earn my way in the world...

**Admit we’re stuck:** “I’m stuck! I can’t do it!”

**Back to the tire:** I eventually did...

How are you responding to the law? When your rebellion is exposed, how do you respond?

Paul tells us **Romans 6:23** that the stakes are high regarding this decision. *Finish drawing.*

Romans 6:23. Do you believe that? How do we receive this gift?

**Ephesians 2:8 / Romans 7:25**

But how is that so? What did Jesus do?

**Romans 5:8 / Colossians 1:21**

Jesus **paid** the price for our rebellion.  
He **conquered death** and **invites** us to share in His life.  
We are stuck – And He is offering to rescue us.

**For those who have not put faith in Jesus**, He is closer than you realize. He's been there the whole time offering to rescue you – offering you redemption. Will you finally acknowledge your need and receive what He's offering?

Receiving the gift that He is offering is **simple** and it's **significant**.

It is as simple as saying to Him:

God, I'm a sinner in need of rescue.

Jesus, I believe you died on the cross to rescue me from my sin and you rose to life and now invite me to share in your life.

Jesus, I confess my sin and I commit to following you.

When we place faith in Jesus **we are** as Colossians 1:21 says *"reconciled by Christ's death and presented holy in God's sight, without blemish and free from accusation."*

If you have not stepped into a relationship with Jesus, I'd like to invite you to do that right now. It starts with a conversation like this:

*God, I'm a sinner in need of rescue.*

*Jesus, I believe you died on the cross to rescue me from my sin and you rose to life and now invite me to share in your life.*

*Jesus, I confess my sin and I commit to following you. Amen.*

**If you have** made this decision today or if you decide to make this decision this week, please tell us about it and we'd love to come along side and encourage you.

**For all who** have put faith in Jesus...

- We were stuck in our rebellion.
- The Law identified our rebellion. Called it out/shed light on it.
- By grace, through faith in Christ we are saved. **The Truth**

**Hope springs from truth rehearsed.** I encourage you to rehearse this truth this week and enjoy the hope that springs up in the midst of life's difficulties.

Pray... Ephesians 1:3-8, 13b-14.

*Include quiet for reflection. / Worship team come up.*