



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

July 8-10, 2023

Romans 7:15-25a

Jesus is our Rescue + Rest in the Sanctified Struggle

3) Understand the Desires of your Heart.

4) Look to your Champion.

Verse 15: Paul is honest about what is going on inside of him. The Christian, "I," recognizes that this is not just a schizophrenic episode or a disassociative identity disorder. We are both saint (redeemed and forgiven child of God) and sinner (still having a sinful nature that opposes God and loves sin). Where do you see this battle between the two most in your life?

Verse 16: God's law is good (beautiful). Following it is the best for us and for society. The sinful nature wants the opposite, or wants us to follow it for the wrong reasons. Which laws do you see as especially wise for God to give us in the world today?

Which command of God do you want to get better at following?

Verse 17-18: God didn't create you a sinner. But the sinful nature clings to you because you were conceived in sin passed down from Adam and Eve. Why is it so dangerous for us Christians to ignore the fact that we have a sinful nature and not fight against it? (Would it be wise to ignore an infection or cancer?)

When are times you especially struggle to carry out something that is good?

Verse 19-20: "Simul iustus et Peccator" is Latin for "At the same time saint (just/justified) and sinner." How are you both saint and sinner in this life?

Saint:

Sinner:

Verse 21-22: Paul makes an important distinction here. Who is his true identity – Baptized child of God (new person) or Sinful Nature?

What difference does this distinction make for us?

As loved children of God, we delight in God's law, in the Ten Commandments. How do we show this in our lives?

Verse 23: The Christian has a fight on their hands. What is that fight?

The sinful nature no longer belongs in the house of our hearts and minds, but keeps hanging around and wants to take over and take us captive. Why do we keep on struggling and fighting our sinful nature?

Verse 24-25: This is the cry of the heart-rent Christian who loves the Lord and wants to do what he says, but sees the sinful thoughts, words and deeds strewn about their life. It is so frustrating. Our bodies will die because of sin. It can look hopeless, but it isn't. How can the Christian be so honest about themselves and our sinful state, and yet so confident and courageous?

What did Jesus do to rescue us?

Paul helps us see our true identity and how we find rest in Jesus - the forgiveness he won, eternal life, and strength to fight against our sinful natures each day. You are the "I" Paul speaks of in this section, and Jesus has given you the victory he has won. How will that help you live for him this week?