



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Bible Study Outline

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

TOPIC: The Enemy Within

TEXT: Roman 7:14-25

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: The man sitting across the table from me was a good friend, a leader in his church and a deeply loved member of his family. He ran a successful business and gave generously to those in need. I've known very few people who had a greater desire to follow Christ wholeheartedly. But my friend was struggling. One area of his life seemed impossible to bring into submission to Christ. He would determine to walk in obedience to the Lord and would succeed for a while, but then some crisis would push him back over the edge. He was on the verge of despair.

Romans 7 has generated more debate than almost any other section of Paul's writing. Some students of the book believe Paul is talking about his life before he believed in Jesus-the days when he was a law-keeping Pharisee. Other interpreters think Paul is describing life as a disobedient Christian who is far from God. The third view is that Paul is talking about the struggles we have in the normal Christian life. I think this view fits best with what Paul says. We have a desire to obey God and live holy lives, but there is a powerful force in us that works against that desire. The old nature, the tattered remnants of the old way of life, can sometimes grip us with incredible strength. Read Romans 7:14-25.

Discussion Questions

1. What advice would you give this man? What kind of advice would probably do more harm than good?

2. Do you think Paul is being too hard on himself in this passage, or is he just being realistic? Explain your answer.
3. When Paul hears God's law, he has a desire to obey it but ends up disobeying. What reasons does Paul give for doing what he does not want to do (vs. 15-17)?
4. Is Paul just trying to blame someone or something else for his failure when he says, "It is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it" (vs. 17, 20)? Why or why not?
5. Give an example of how you have sensed the struggle in your own life between the two forces-a desire to do good and the law of sin at work within your members (vs. 21-24).
6. Where does Paul look for help to be delivered from his struggle (vs. 24-25)? When and how do you think that deliverance will come?
7. If the final victory over sin's power only comes when we are delivered from "this body of death," what can we do in the meantime - give up? try harder? Explain your answer.
8. What can you say to a Christian friend who is struggling with some area of disobedience that will give him or her hope and help in the struggle?
9. Based on this passage, what will you do to prevent you from sinning against God when the pressure to sin against God builds up in your life?
10. What can you do to remind yourself of God's empowerment in your life to live in obedience to him?