

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES

SERMON OUTLINE –27 November 2016

Romans 7:7 - 25 ~ The fight of your life

It's my nature...

1. The law shows us the dimensions of sin – 7:7-13

- The blessing of the law: Deut 4:6-8; Psalm 19:7, 119:97; Acts 21:27-28

- What use is the law? personal knowledge of sin – v8

2. The law shows us the now and not-yet of our salvation – 7:14-25

- The conflict between the inner and outer person.

- Sinlessness is not the mark of the Christian – Matthew 18:21-35

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QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION

Romans 7:7 – 25

Romans 5-8 explores the life promised for the person who is righteous before God by faith. What hope or confidence can we have as people who live between justification and glorification? That is as people who have been set right with God and yet still await the glory that is to come. See if you can match up the lists below:

The justified person has peace with God – Romans 5:1		
Chapter 5 – Reconciled with God		Free from death
Chapter 6 – United with Christ		Free from law
Chapter 7 – No longer condemned		Free from sin
Chapter 8 – Given the Spirit of life		Free from wrath

1. Read Romans 7:4–6. Why do we need to be set free from the law?
2. What is the effect of the law on people who are living ‘in the flesh’? (see also 5:20 and 7:8) Does this surprise you? Why / Why not?
3. What potential misunderstanding does Paul anticipate in 7:7?
4. Read v7-13. What good things about the law do we find here?
5. The law is not sin – but it hardly seems our friend. Possessing the law: gives no advantage (2:17-27); doesn’t make us right with God but shows up our sin (3:19-20); brings wrath (4:15); increases trespass (5:20) and arouses sinful desires (7:6-8)! How can Paul say the law is good and spiritual? (v10-14) What is the real problem?
6. How does the ‘holy, righteous and good’ law demonstrate that sin is ‘sinful beyond measure’? How would you describe the reaction between sin and the law?

Two dimensions of the believer – the inner & outer person, the now and not-yet

7. As people who are justified now (5:1), what is our inner person free from - 7:4, 6?
8. As people who are not yet clothed with our resurrection bodies (8:23-23); how does Paul describe our outer person or ‘the flesh’? (6:10, 7:23-24 and 8:10).
9. Why is the person in v14-25 a ‘wretched man’? Does the conflict between the inner and outer person reflect your experience of the Christian life? If so, give an example.
10. Should a struggle with sin be a normal part of our Christian experience?
11. Why is Paul thankful and confidently hopeful in the midst of struggle –v24-25?