

## "The War Within"

Romans 7:14-8:4

Intro: Paul's perceived dilemma.

Vs. 14 - Strong Language that many refuse to believe refers to the present state of Paul's Christianity. However, "sold as a slave to sin" points out the failure, even of Christians, to meet the radical ethical and moral demands of the Gospel on a regular basis. (he goes on to explain)

1. Do you ever feel like Paul? (vs. 15)

- A. If you are not experiencing an INTERNAL WAR against sin in your life there is something very wrong. (vs. 21-23)
- B. CAUSES for the believer to not experience this war are:
  - I. IGNORANCE/NEGLECT: Not reading/studying the WORD OF GOD enough to get CONVICTION in their life. (vs. 16)
    - a.) The Word of God exposes sin for what it is. (vs. 13)
    - b.) The Word of God helps the believer understand what's really going on. (vs. 17)
      - i.) It shines a light on THE REAL ENEMEY...SIN.
  - II. HUMANISM: Believing you are essentially good. (vs. 18-20)
    - a.) Every human is born with a sinful nature (Ps. 51:5)

*Psalms 51:5*

*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*

- b.) Humanistic belief patterns are evil.
  - i.) They are anti-God...anti-Christ beliefs.

*"Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God." Luke 18:19*

- ii.) They say, "I don't need God's Word in my life."
- c.) You CAN'T BE SAVED and be a humanist at the same time. (vs. 24-25)

2. If you're Christianity is healthy, you will experience a SPIRITUAL DICHOTOMY within yourself. (vs. 25)

- A. Dichotomy: a division or contrast between two things that are represented as being opposed or entirely different.

3. HOW TO NOT GO CRAZY with all of this. (8:1-4)

- A. This dichotomy will lead you into a NEW WAY OF LIFE given to you by Jesus Christ Himself.
  - I. The believer is under a NEW SYSTEM OF LAW for living. (vs. 2)
- B. This new way of life is a LIFE IN THE SPIRIT.

*Galatians 5:16-18*

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.*

Next Week: How to live a life in the Spirit in order to WIN THE WAR against sin.