

Thank God for Defeat

Doing battle with indwelling sin when the fight seems lost – Romans 7:7-25

Introduction: Because of indwelling sin – which is revealed by God’s law (and many human rules), Christians experience an ongoing painful struggle with the consequences of sin. We battle it, and many times we lose! Our only hope in the struggle is Jesus: a) remembering our position in him, and b) drawing near to him as our Lord.

1. ***Here’s the problem – God’s Law, (and N.T. biblical commands), reveal our problem with indwelling sin. 7:7-12***

1. Paul’s Question – Is the law sin?
2. Paul’s Answer – The law is not sin. On the contrary, the law reveals our sin. 7:7b
3. A Problem – Sometimes we treat N.T. commands, *and Christian rules*, like the O.T. law.

2. ***Option #1: “DIY” Christianity – Do it yourself Christianity leads to programmatic Christianity and an experience of defeat. 7:7-24a***

1. How should we understand the following verses? Two questions.... 7:13-24a
2. Paul describes the anatomy of the battle with indwelling sin. 7:14-23
3. Paul describes the result of the battle. 7:24a

3. ***Option #2: Dependent Christianity – Radical trust in a person – Jesus – leads to long term growth. 7:24b-25***

1. The question – *Who* will set me free? 7:24b
2. The confidence – Paul explodes in *thanks* that initially seems out of place in context. 7:25a
3. The sobering reality – This is going to be an ongoing battle for the rest of our lives. 7:25b

