

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

3/18/18

Text: Romans 7:13-25 (ESV)

Title: Hopeful in the Midst of War

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim walked us through the rest of Romans 7, as Paul writes about the war raging within him between his sinful flesh and his mind. As we saw, Paul is acknowledging that though he has been set free from sin and the judgment of the law he can't stop doing the very things he knows are sinful. As each of us can testify, we know what is right and good according to God's law, but we also continue to struggle against our sinful tendencies. We either go too far and step over the line of sin (sins of "Commission") or we fail to follow through on the very things we know God is telling us to do (sins of "Omission"). We love God and want to do what is right, but we constantly fail at it. As Tim said, You are Really messed up, but there is Real hope in Jesus. The hope of the gospel is that Jesus not only sets us free from the punishment of sin, but he also gives the hope and power to do battle against sin. We can turn to him, asking him to change our heart and work his love and obedience into us so that every temptation might be an opportunity to love and worship God.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Tim said we have to acknowledge that there is a Real War going on inside us between our sinful flesh and our mind or spirit. He warned that if you do not sense a struggle against sin then you are likely swimming downstream and feel perfectly "at home" in the world.*
 - What struggles against sin (ongoing or new) did you see in yourself this week?**
- 2. In our struggle with sin we often either "Try Harder," feel guilty that we're not better and too ashamed to admit our sin; or we give up and give in to our sin and become cynical. As a result we're either joyless and exhausted, or we're miserable and never free.*
 - Have you ever felt safe enough to be 100% honest about your sin? (Why/not?)**
 - What sins convince you to try harder, and which ones can get you to give up?**
- 3. The pattern we see in the Bible is that of a rescue, God entering in to save His people. Jesus has entered in and He not only saves us, but He empowers us to turn every temptation into an opportunity to love and worship Him. We just have to ask for His help!*
 - What was it like to hear Tim talk about praying for the woman he was tempted to look at on the magazine cover?**
 - What would it look like to turn every temptation into a chance to love and worship?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

- 1. Worship the LORD, the Great I Am, for His power to defeat all His and our enemies. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His glory and grace.*
- 2. How have you lived with a divided heart, desiring what is good and then also loving what you know is wrong? Confess your brokenness and idolatries to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to make you whole.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His love to come into our wretchedness and captivity (to become human and die for our sin) in order to rescue us. Thank Him for His ability to conquer our sin and to give us a new heart.*
- 4. Who do you know that tries to solve the war with sin by self-effort? Or who do you know that has just given up? Pray for them, asking the Lord to enable you to love them, and that He would help them trust His grace.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with His love and power. Read Galatians 2:20, and pray that He would anchor you in the truths that in us is nothing good (in our fallen nature), and yet Christ lives in us.*