
A few points and questions to consider:

Today's study was broken down into the following passages:

1. The Marriage Illustration: Romans 7:1-6,
2. Sin's Use of the Law: Romans 7:7-14,
3. The Battle of Sin Within Us: Romans 7:15-23, and
4. Our Rescuer – Jesus Christ Our Lord: Romans 7:24-25.

Making “Jesus Christ our Lord” is the only way we will experience the rescue that causes Paul to break out in praise in Romans 7:25. This phrase – Jesus Christ our Lord – is one we often see in the scripture and one you've likely identified with countless times. But stop and consider this identification.

- Jesus: He is my Savior, my Salvation.
Matthew 1:21, “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
John 1:29, “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”
- Christ: He is the promised Messiah; the Redeemer.
John 1:41, “He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which means Christ).”
- Lord: He is my Master
Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”

Oftentimes our struggles with sin are because of our failure to make Jesus Lord of our lives. In relative terms, accepting Him as our Savior (“Jesus”) and our Redeemer (“Christ”) is easy. It's the total surrender to Him as Master (“Lord”) that's the difficult part. The surrendering of ourselves – our entire self – to Him is our struggle. In last week's passage Paul told us to offer ourselves – all parts of our body – to God as slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:19).

Is there a sin – or maybe more than one – that is particularly troubling for you? These are often called “besetting sins.” Sometimes those are “hidden sins” that are seen by no one but you and God. One of those is covetousness, used by Paul as an example in Romans 7:7. There are others. Truth is that all sins start from within. They may be “hidden” but are then manifested outwardly. For example, a critical spirit becomes a critical tongue. In that regard, Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 10:5 to “take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

What is your besetting sin? Where do you find yourself struggling? Pray over that / them and place it / them under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Share this with a trusted friend who will hold you accountable regarding this struggle.

Once again, we encourage you to dig a little deeper into this passage by preparing a HEAR Report. As noted in previous weeks, HEAR is an acronym for Highlight, Explain, Apply, Respond.

- Read thru this passage and HIGHLIGHT a verse(s) that you found especially powerful.
- EXPLAIN the verse. What was the context and purpose for what was written and when it was written.
- APPLY the verse to yourself
- Lastly, RESPOND to the verse. Maybe there are changes God wants you to make in your life w.r.t. the verse. Or your response may be a prayer to God. It may be praising Him. However you feel led to respond.

As has been pointed out by others, the goal isn't for you / me to jot down a "profound truth" but to note the "truth you found."

Please email us and let us know how this passage spoke to you. Also let us know if you have any general comments, suggestions, etc. for this midweek Bible study program. *We want and need to hear from you.* Email address: connect@madisonavenuebc.org

Name: _____

H.E.A.R. REPORT for _____ (Bible passage).

Highlight a verse(s)

Explain what the text means.

Possible questions to consider: *Why was this written? To whom was it originally written? How does it fit with the verses immediately before and after it? Why did the Holy Spirit include this passage in the book? What is He intending to communicate through this text?*

Apply "the significance of these verses to you personally"

Possible questions to consider: *How can this help me? What does this mean to me? What would the application of this verse look like in my life? What does this mean to me? How does this apply to my family, my church family, my community? What is God saying to me?*

Respond

Matthew 7:7 (ESV), "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

Source: Growing Up, Robby Gallaty