

MAIN POINT

Though we will continually face spiritual battles, the gospel can bring true freedom in our lives.

INTRODUCTION

What misconceptions have you encountered about Christians and Christianity?

Where have you found living the Christian life to be more difficult than you expected?

Believers and unbelievers have misconceptions about the Christian life, sometimes confusing it with sinlessness. Many believers then feel defeated as they continue to deal with sin after expressing belief in Jesus. Paul, being very candid, explained that all believers continue to face sin but can do so in light of the gospel, knowing their salvation is secure through faith in Jesus alone.

DISCUSSION

> READ ROMANS 7:21-24; 8:1-2.

How would you characterize Paul's words in these verses? What is the significance of his using personal pronouns as he talked about sin?

How might we explain the inconsistency between what we do and what we want to do?

How might someone misuse Paul's statements to justify their continued sin?

How would you describe the two laws identified by Paul? How are these two laws competing with one another?

What are the problems with taking an, "I will try harder" approach to overcoming sin?

What emotions do you sense in Paul's declaration in verse 24? How does your experience affirm Paul's statement?

What did Paul discover as the only way to secure victory over sin?

How does faith in Christ bring resolution to the internal conflict with sin?

What makes faith in Christ so precious? How does knowing that we have been forgiven of sin through faith in Christ bring peace and freedom?

APPLICATION

How honest have you been with yourself and others regarding the areas you struggle with sin? How will you move toward honesty and submission to the Spirit in the areas you are currently struggling?