

Providence Presbyterian Church  
Men's Fellowship and Bible Study  
October 16, 2008

## ***Sanctification: Fighting, Flourishing, Finishing In the Christian Life***

### ***Fighting the sin that remains***

*I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.*

- Romans 7:15-21

### **Review and Introduction**

Last week we were reminded of the truth and reality that the follower of Christ will persevere to the end as the Lord preserves him/her. At the same time there is that ever present reality that in this life we are still engaged in a war with sin, the world and the devil.

One of the first steps to fighting against remaining indwelling sin in us is to identify it and know it.

#### **1. Sin and evil lives on**

*Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

*...but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. – Romans 7:20 & 23*

- Paul uses law as a metaphor to describe the power, authority, constraint, and control that sin exerts in our lives.

> the way a law directs and affects

> the way that laws are simply in effect

- Indwelling sin works by enticing, confusing, threatening and even bullying

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- So we need to be reminded of the effects of Christ's victorious work

#### **2. Sin and evil lives on in us**

*So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. – Romans 7:21*

- It is one thing to know about sin and its consequences, but it is another terrifying thing to know about sin in our own lives.

- It is a gracious thing, if when confronted with our sin, we ask, "Who shall deliver me?"

- When being assured of the answer to the above question, the Christian can meet sin head on.

### 3. This law of sin can be at its worst when we are at our best

*So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.* – Romans 7:21

- As powerful as sin may be, it does not rule our hearts.
- Believers want to do good even when the drum of temptation and sin is pounding

### 4. This law of sin never ceases

*For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

- Galatians 5:17-18
- The believer wants to do good in general and particular ways. (vv. 18-21)
- Sin and evil is fighting against both of these desires. (vv. 14-21)

### Being confident of the victory while engaging in the battle

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death...* - Romans 8:1-2

- The importance of knowing the enemy
- Being aware of the battle at hand
- Being reminded of the battle plan and victory

*But many people live in darkness and ignorance about their own hearts. They keep careful track of how their investments are doing on Wall Street and get frequent checkups at the doctor: they watch what they eat and work out at the gym three or four times a week to keep their bodies finely tuned. But how many people give the least thought to their souls? If it is important to watch over and care for our bodies and investments, which will soon die and rot, how much more important is it for us to guard our immortal souls? –Kris Lundgaard, *The Enemy Within*, p.27 (much of this outline is adapted from this book)*

### Some questions

1. What are ways that sin entices, confuses, or even threatens us?
2. Can you think of times that this “law of sin” seemed to take hold of you as if to bend your will to do what you did not want to do?
3. If it is true that the law of sin never ceases, what hope do you have?
4. Look at Luke 12:15 and Matthew 26:41. How do these relate to this lesson?