



Calling deserters back to the gospel  
Mark 14:72

JANUARY 10, 2010

# SIN & THE GOSPEL IN US

## J e s u s O v e r c o m e s O u r W e a k n e s s .

H e a r ☼

*Read Romans 7.12-8.3*

Last week, we looked at Jesus making himself and his good news public both in the world and then in us as his people. But the good news doesn't always ring out as loudly from us as we would like; sometimes it seems muffled by our sin. This week, we will look more at our experience as Jesus' public people and the ways that he overcomes our weakness to make his gospel known in us.

As you read through this passage in Romans, see if you share any of Paul's experience.

L o v e ☼

What does Paul say about the Law, and what does he seem to be saying about himself? Which one is good, and which one is not?

Is Paul's problem that he doesn't know what is right and what is wrong? Is it that he can't decide what is right and what is wrong, or is it something else?

We are Jesus' people with new hearts and new natures meant to be made public - meant to show his goodness in us. Does any of what Paul says here sound familiar to you? Have you ever felt any of this? Have you ever done something knowing that it was wrong, and then hating that you did it?

Where is the gospel for us in all of this? What answer does Paul offer to all of it?

P r o c l a i m ☼

Even though Jesus makes his good news known in us, we do not see it perfectly yet. There are still the frustrations and failings of our continuing sin. In all of this, Paul points us back to the cross. There Jesus died to free us from sin's reign and condemnation, and, as Rom 6 tells us, we have been joined to Jesus in his cross and the resurrection of new life in us. In our frustrations and the struggles of our temptations, we need the gospel preached to us over and over. We need to preach it to ourselves, our friends, and our families, as we fight our sin together. Think of ways to ask for gospel encouragement from each other when you need it, as well as ways to offer it.

Paul hits on a very important idea in this passage; as sinners we would love to blame the Law for our problems. If we did blame the Law, who would we really be blaming for our sin? How does Paul correct our tendency to shift blame here?

What difference does it make for the way you think of and approach your sanctification to know that as Christians we are both saints and sinners at the same time?



