

Three Testimonies: What's Yours? Romans 7:14-25

Introduction:

- Your testimony makes a difference
 1. One person did not testify at a criminal hearing that could have saved the accused (the truth came out 60 years later)
 2. If Jesus has saved you, you have a testimony:
 - a. V_____ testimony (with words)
 - b. L_____ testimony (by your life)
- In our study we will look at three testimonies to inspire you to work at sharing yours.

The Testimony of the Law's Contribution – ___form (7,10,12)

- A question: If Jesus freed us from the Law, does that mean that the Law is sin?
 1. The problem is not with the Law – it is holy, righteous and g_____ (v. 12)
 - a. It informed people of their s_____ (v. 7)
 - b. It informed people that God has a r_____ for their sin (v. 10 – see Gal 3:24; I Pet 1:19; 3:18)
 2. The problem is with h_____
- Before a person can come to Christ
 1. They must be convicted of their s_____
 2. They must be convinced that they n_____ Christ.

The Testimony of Humanity's Constitution – ___formed (8-11)

- Paul speaks from personal experience of being raised a Jew
 1. Sin used the Law, "You shall not covet", to produce in him coveting of every k_____ (v. 8)
 2. His sin spiritually k_____ him (v. 9-11)
 3. Paul became totally deformed (corrupted)
- Is natural humanity a little corrupt, totally corrupt, or does it vary from person to person?
 1. All unbelievers are totally c_____ off from God
 2. All unbelievers turn to their own w_____ instead of God's (Rom 3:10-12); unbelievers either believe that:
 - a. Their g_____ makes them okay with God.
 - b. Their s_____ makes them too far gone for God.
 3. Therefore all unbelievers have been totally corrupted by either their own goodness or their own sinfulness and cannot come to God on their o_____.

The Testimony of Paul's Salvation – _____formed (13-25)

- This group of verses have been variously viewed
 1. Some see this as Paul's testimony of his p_____ struggle with sin.
 2. Some see this as Paul's testimony of his p_____ struggle with sin just after he came to Christ.
 3. Some see this as Paul's testimony of his p_____ life as a religious Jew, before coming to Christ.
- Was Paul a carnal Christian when writing this passage? (v. 14a)
 1. Romans was written a_____ the letter to the Corinthians.
 - a. Paul chewed out the Corinthians for being c_____ and not advancing beyond that stage (I Cor 3:1)
 - b. Paul would be hypocritical, if he were still carnal at this time (he was a Christian longer than the Corinthians).
 2. Yet Paul in this passage states, "I am carnal, f_____"
- How does Paul describe his fleshly state? (v. 14b-19,23)
 1. He is sold into b_____ to sin.
 - a. Yet in Rom 6:14, he states that believers do not have sin as their m_____
 - b. Also, in Rom 6:17,18, he states that believers are no longer s_____ to sin but to righteousness.
 2. He has a war going on inside him and finds himself p_____ against sin (vv.18,23)
 - a. Yet in Rom 6:12,13 he commands Christians to NOT present their bodies as i_____ of sin.
 - b. Paul would be hypocritical in saying this if he were still a p_____ of his own sin (v. 23)
- If Paul was describing his past life as an unbeliever, then why does he use the present tense?
 1. He did not start out in the present tense but the past tense
 - a. Verse 7 – he l_____ about the commandment, "You shall not covet" (as a Jewish boy – see Phil 3:5)
 - b. Verse 8 – he began to covet in every way (on the outside he was b_____ from others' eyes – Phil 3:9; but on the inside he was struggling with coveting)
 - c. Verse 9 – he was d_____ spiritually (he obviously is looking back on his condition from God's eyes)
 2. Paul suddenly jumps to the present tense in verse 14 to describe his past life as a Jewish man.
 - a. We commonly change to the present tense when telling a story.

- b. In biblical narratives, this technique of changing to the present is common (called a historical or dramatic present)
- 1) Example – Mark 1:37-44 uses the word “said” _____ times, yet the word is in the present tense (says)
 - 2) Some translations indicate a change to the present tense by an asterick (*) or similar mark but translate it as past tense for better English.
- c. Paul gets caught up in his own story, using the present tense so that we are viewing his past life like a movie.
- 1) As a Jewish man, Paul desired to s_____ the God of his ancestors (v. 22)
 - 2) In his m_____ he wanted to obey the Law, but in his flesh he was imprisoned by sin (v. 23)
 - 3) He wanted to s_____ coveting but was incapable of doing so (v. 15-21)
 - 4) Paul then screams in verse 24 – *Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from this body of death?* – He gives the answer in verse 25 - _____
 - 5) Paul ends with a s_____ of his struggle as a Jewish man (v. 25) and then proceeds to teach of the freeing power of Jesus Christ in 8:1,2.

Conclusion:

● You have a testimony that God can use to i_____ and encourage others, and can even bring people to Christ.

● Assignment

1. Think and write down how Christ has a made a difference in your life.
2. Live in a way that demonstrates that Christ still makes a difference.