

## Sermon Questions from Sunday, March 26, 2017

Romans 7:13-25

Pastor Brian Pipping “*Follow: because you can’t get there on your own...Futility*”

### Introduction

1. What New Year’s resolution did you start with good intentions only to have it fizzle out?
2. When you were a teenager, what was one of your biggest struggles? Have you overcome it? If so, how? If not, why do you think that is?

### Digging Deeper

3. What is the root problem of people which Paul exposes through his own example (v. 14-24)?
4. Pastor Brian used the word *failure* as a summary of the passage last week. This Sunday he leveraged the word *futility* to summarize this passage. Discuss that word as it relates to this passage and your personal walk with God.
5. Based on the passages listed, respond with the group:
  - Romans 7:14 – What does it take for you to admit the power of sin in your life?
  - Romans 7:18 – When or how did you realize that you are powerless to change on your own?
  - Romans 7:24 – What will it take to become fed up with your condition and cry for help?
  - Romans 7:25 – Have you accepted your freedom (available through Christ)?
6. It seems Paul was referring to the struggle that all Christians face, how does the inner conflict Paul described also apply to those who understand the message of the Word of God but who are resisting the convicting power of the Holy Spirit?
7. During his frustrating struggle, what is Paul’s hope (v. 24-25)? Do you share this? Why or why not?
8. The struggle against sin is perplexing and, at times, overwhelming. Even with the working of divine grace, there is moral and spiritual struggle. When you reach your limit, to who or to what do you cry out? May this passage (v. 24-25) remind us to cry out to Jesus who paid the penalty and provides freedom.

### Application

9. Paul struggled with sin. So do we. Based on this passage, what do you take away from the similarities of our reality with Paul?
10. How is this passage a model for a healthy, realistic self-image? How is it a model for taking appropriate responsibility?