



## Facing the Truth About You

June 1, 2019

**Text:** Romans 7:15–25 (The Message):

**Big Question:** Are you honest with yourself?

### The Truth About Paul

**1. There were some things he didn't understand about himself**

- 15 What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise.

**2. There were some things he could not figure out alone**

- 16 So if I can't be trusted to figure out what is best for myself and then do it, it becomes obvious that God's command is necessary.

**3. There were things he knew but did not do (I sabotage myself)**

- 17 But I need something more! For if **I know the law but still can't keep it**, and if the power of sin within me keeps **sabotaging** my best intentions, I obviously need help! 18 I realize that I don't have what it takes. **I can will it, but I can't do it.** 19 I decide to do good, but I don't really do it; I decide not to do bad, but then I do it anyway. **20 My decisions, such as they are, don't result in actions.** **Something has gone wrong deep within me** and gets the better of me every time. 21 It happens so regularly that it's predictable. **The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up.**

**4. There were times he struggled with God**

- 22 **I truly delight in God's commands**, 23 but it's pretty obvious that **not all of me joins in that delight**. Parts of me covertly (*or secretly*) rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

**5. There were times he was tired of everything**

- 24 **I've tried everything** and nothing helps. **I'm at the end of my rope.** Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

**6. There was one answer to all of his issues, Jesus**

- 25 **The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.** He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, **but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different.**

**Closing: What is the truth about you?**

**Next Time: You Decide but They Pay**

**Statement: My decisions and my beliefs carry me** and those **I influence** to predictable destinations in the future (Matthew 9:29, "...according to your faith let it be to you... " NKJV)