

Study Guide for April 29th, 2012. Bridging the Gap. Romans 7:13-20

Introduction: When have you become aware of the GAP between your good intentions and the reality of your failure to follow through? What helped you bridge the gap?

I. A Good Tool which produces DEATH: (vs. 13)

- A. What **good** thing does Paul refer to in vs. 13 which became death to **me**? (vs. 12)
- B. What two conclusions about **sin** followed as a result of this realization?
- C. When did some sin become **utterly sinful** for you? What happened after that?

II. What we know about the Law and SELF: (vs. 14)

- A. What does Paul say he and his readers know about character of the law?
- B. What does Paul say he knows about his character?
- C. What do you think Paul means when he describes himself as **sold as a slave to sin**?

III. The GAP between INTENTION and PERFORMANCE: (vs. 15-16)

- A. Fill in the blanks and spend a few moments reflecting on these famous words.
“I do not _____ what ___ do. For what I _____ to do I do ____ do, but what I _____ I do. And if I do what I _____ want to do, I _____ that the law is good.”
- B. What comes to mind as you reflect on these words? Cite one personal example.
- C. Read Gal. 3:19-25. From these passages what is the purpose of God’s law?

IV. The REALIZATION: What we learn in the GAP: (vs. 17-18)

- A. What does Paul come realize about himself? What dwells within him?
- B. What empirical evidence leads Paul to these conclusions about himself/
- C. Read I Tim. 1:12-17. What conclusions follow the realization of our sinfulness?

V. The HUMBLING Confession – SIN dwells within me (vs. 19-20)

- A. How do Paul’s words here (vs. 19-20) restate and elaborate what he said earlier?
- B. Read James 5:16. Why are confession and prayer effective in overcoming sin?