## "As If" If Sermon Series April 8<sup>th</sup> & 10th, 2016

"Your greatest regret won't be the things you did but wish you hadn't. Your greatest regret will be the things you didn't do but wish you had." --Mark Batterson

I. <u>The Problem or Condition</u>: S\_\_\_\_\_ is evil power that enters one's life and brings the true self into slavery to its rule. It is the case. Sin distorts our b\_\_\_\_\_ intentions and twists good to self-interest. Romans 7:14-15, Trying is d\_\_\_\_\_. Willpower is not enough. Romans 7:16-20, The law is g\_\_\_\_. The law is not enough. This is n\_\_\_\_\_ human life apart from God. Romans 7:21-24, This is the miserable sinner w\_\_\_\_ of life. Romans 7:25, "Flesh" in the Greek meant "n\_\_\_\_\_\_ abilities."

II. <u>The Solution: God's Saving Act</u> (Romans 8:1-2) Condemnation = doom and d\_\_\_\_\_ but not for those in Christ! The S\_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus has set you f\_\_\_\_\_ from sin and death! 8:3-4, We now walk NOT according to our own "flesh, natural abilities, p\_\_\_\_\_" but according to the S\_\_\_\_\_. 8:5-8, To focus on s\_\_\_\_\_ is to ignore \_\_\_\_\_. God doesn't like that.

8:9-10, We can live "As If" Christ l\_\_\_\_\_ in us because He does!

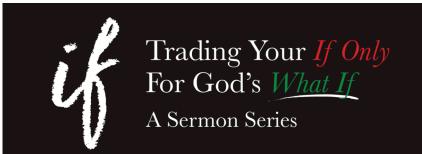
*"Righteousness is more than doing nothing wrong – it's doing something right." – Mark Batterson*8:11, "\_\_\_\_\_the Spirit...dwells in you," What happens? We will be given 1\_\_\_\_\_to our mortal bodies also! Christian assurance is not s\_\_\_\_-assurance. God's love has proved more powerful than all the powers of darkness.

III. Action Step: Live "As If"

"God loves each of us **as if** there were only one of us." Saint Augustine

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is **as if** nothing is a miracle. The other is **as if** everything is." Albert Einstein

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." Mahatma Gandhi* 



What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another, doing things I absolutely despise. 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. 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!I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it...

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... 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?

Romans 7:15-24 (MSG)

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