

“As If”
If Sermon Series
April 8th & 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. The Problem or Condition: 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. The Solution: God’s Saving Act (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 l _____ 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

if

Trading Your *If Only*
For God’s *What If*

A Sermon Series

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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