

The way of the wicked is like deep darkness, they do not know over what they stumbled the difference between the christian and the unbeliever is not that he never stumbles but that's the christian knows over.

What? He stumbles sin. Jesus christ is the light of the world, the light shines in the darkness, the light shines in our lives. It is a lamp unto our feet. We don't always like, would it reveals? I'm told that when electricity first came to the prairie and people had electric lights in their homes, they suddenly noticed how dirty the walls were the light shines in the darkness and it reveals things.

But the christian is not in the dark anymore, he has in that light and he sees his sin and it bothers him. A man who is unconverted is like a man in the deep of night. He he trips and he becomes disoriented and he cannot find his way, but the man who falls in the daylight, gets up and continues on his way.

He can name the thing he stepped on and avoid it in the future scripture calls. Both wisdom and wickedness, both faith and unbelief. Waves were a road or a path. The apostle says that we are to walk with the spirit, a knot are fallen flesh, because there are only two ways, two options, the way of life, or the way of death, the way of light, or the way of darkness, the way of jesus, or the way of the world.

Standing still is not an option. You can't just stay put, you must put a foot out and walk. Walk says, paul by the spirit. Again, this does not mean that the christian never sins. Now for stumbles, in fact, it bothers him all the more that he does. Walk by the spirit says paul.

And you will not gratify, the desires of the flesh for the desires of the flesh, or against the spirit, and the desires of the spirit are against the flesh. For these are opposed to each other at war with each other to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

When paul says, you will not gratify the desires of the flesh, that word gratify means to bring the desires of your fallen, sinful flesh to their fullness, to their completion, to their finish. You will not do that for the wages of sin is death both now. And for all eternity, it is the same word that jesus speaks from the cross.

When he says it is finished, i have finished paying the price of sin. I have fulfilled all righteousness for you sin. Has its own. It is finished and the christian does not want. It will take what christ has done for us. Instead, you have sin but it is not your lord.

You are in christ. You are at war even within yourself. You are saint and sinner at the same time. But even here there is an important distinction, okay? You will not always be a sinner in this life. Yes.

But in heaven know. And that's where you're going. You will however, always be a saint, that is who you are now.

It's what your baptism has made you, and it's what you will be for all eternity, and it's who you truly are a child of god. An air a paradise. That's why says, paul you are having this war within yourself and you frequently do what you do not want to do and what you want to do, you don't do.

And i would really have you note this morning that the apostle assumes that you and all christians have this conflict and he has a two. There's not a single christian walking around who sin does not bother him and get thrown in his face and who does not stumble often and a great weakness.

He assumes that even the best of god saints do the very things. They don't want to do but you are called to hope and victory. And not to despair for christ is risen. Hope is what keeps people walking. It's what keeps the marathon. Runner. Running do not despair. You are not under the law.

You are under christ. You are not under condemnation, you are under grace. God does not count your trespasses against you. God's love for you is not based on your performance. It is based on the it is finished of calvary. You are not condemned. Have hope by the power of the holy spirit.

You really can walk with him. God can renew chastity and get you past sexual sins. Just ask Mary Magdalene god by the power of his spirit can work powerfully in your heart and get you past greed. Just ask zakius. You can looking at the list of these sins, put them more and more to death and grow in the fruits of the spirit you can quit pornography.

It is possible. Get help. If even the pagans can do it, how much more can the christians who have the holy spirit? And the same goes for everything else on that list in Galatians, 5 drug, use and alcohol, abuse and all other sins fits of anger, rivalry dissensions wives, you can learn to grow in a more godly submission to your husband's husbands.

We can learn to grow in a more fervent self-sacrifice and loving our wives as ourselves. All of you, you can buy the power of the holy spirit starts to complain less and give. Thanks more, no sin on. That list is harmless. The apostle lists common everyday sins, like fits of anger and envy right next to things like drunkenness and orgies.

So paul is giving us a clear warning blast here. If we give ourselves over entirely to these things if we let them go to their finished. So that we no longer believe in christ no longer repent. No longer

believe that his promises are for us than we will not inherit heaven.

That is a strong warning. You have these sins and the apostle knows this. He has them too, but you are not under them. You are under grace. You are a new creation in christ. Grab hold of. Hope christ is risen. Christ has come for the likes of you and me and he will not leave you.

He loves in. Bible terms with the apostle, is talking to us about this morning is called sanctification, okay? Sanctification just means growing in holiness because god, for christ's sake, has already made you, holy it is a result of your salvation because you are saved already through grace alone, through faith, alone, apart, from anything you did, or didn't do, or could have done, or should have done or decided, all because of christ.

You are saved. Now, how does that play out in your life? That's what paul's talking about sanctification. We don't have to start now and work our way up to heaven. Sanctification is the other way around. We start from heaven justified and saved through the blood of christ. We are heirs of paradise.

We are on our way to heaven. We work backwards from there. That clarifies a lot. So just to review the sort of things, the apostle is telling us this morning. He tells us that this constant struggle, this war between your fallen, sinful flesh, and the spirit of god whom you have from baptism, this constant tug inside of you, does not mean that you are a bad Christian or that a christian has fallen from grace.

Also, christians must not be surprised that they are tempted to the same evil. The same sort of doubts and unbeliefs as unbelievers. Right. The sins that paul lists there in Galatians 5. These are common to all mankind. We have the same fallen nature as everyone else and we are tempted to the same things.

This should not surprise us this struggle between the new man, and the old man between the flesh and the spirit, the good, you want versus the sin. You wish you were rid of the bible describes this as not something that's easy. But as something difficult, even painful. The bible says, things like mortify, your flesh, put it to death, crucify it, cut it off.

We're talking major surgery here but we find comfort and the fact that the great saints who went before us even like paul they also knew this fight. Well, an even paul could cry out in anguish. Oh wretched. Man that i am. We find comfort that we are in good company and most of all that, our victory cannot fail.

The more, we realize our weakness, the more we trip in the daylight, the more we see, what do we have tripped over, and we can cast

ourselves on the grace of god. We more than conquer. We are not in the darkness. We are in the lights. The more we are beat down the stronger.

Faith, grabs onto christ as our only source of strength and help. And finally the battle plan is really quite simple. Although the problems you have in life and your sins and temptations can be complicated. The battle plan is really quite simple. Do it. Once the very opposite of what the flesh and the devil propose.

So when we are tempted to murmur against god or complain about his plan, then the best answer is to immediately. Praise him for his goodness and give thanks for all his blessings. When we are tempted to entertain, human ideas about matters of doctrine and life. And what's right and wrong, we should simply say, whoa, whoa.

No. What has god said about this in the scripture? That settles it. When we are tempted to despair, that things will ever improve in our lives. In the things around us, we should cast ourselves immediately on the god of hope with whom all things are possible. When we stumble over sin we repent and we do not despair but we say sin disturb.

My soul, no longer. I am baptized it to christ. I have a lord and he is good and kindly and compassionate see what a feast of forgiveness. He has laid for sinners like me, come soon. Lord jesus. Amen.