

“Learn to Live Where You Live”

Romans 7:15-19

Tuesday Bible Lunch

July 31, 2018

Introduction: When our family moved from Lenoir City, Tennessee to Sulphur Springs, Texas, we experienced some things that we had not anticipated. Living in the Knoxville, Tennessee area and living in Sulphur Springs, Texas is different.

One of the things we missed was going to the University of Tennessee football games. Our family had season tickets the nine years we lived there and really enjoyed our Saturday's at the games. We also missed the Smokey Mountains.

When we had been in Sulphur Springs about six months, I met a man in a restaurant one day that introduced himself. He said, “I am Paul Bennett, I am a dentist, and I am a member of the First Methodist Church, in Sulphur Springs. Then he said, “You and I have something in common.” He went on to tell me that he was from Athens, Georgia. I spent many of my growing up years in Athens, Georgia living with my grandparents.

When Dr. Bennett told me that he was from Athens, Georgia, I knew I had found my new dentist. One day while in his office getting some dental work done, I asked Dr. Bennett if he had a hard time adjusting from Athens, Georgia to Sulphur Springs. Living in Athens with the University of Georgia being the “big thing” and living in the Knoxville area with the University of Tennessee being the “big thing” would be very similar. Dr. Bennett responded to my question with an answer I have never forgotten. He said, “You have to learn to live where you live.”

Learning to live where you live is important. Physically, I had to learn to live in Fort Worth when we moved from Atlanta, Georgia to go to seminary. I had to learn to live in Tennessee when we moved from seminary. I had to learn to live in Sulphur Springs when we move from Tennessee. I had to learn to live in Houston when we moved here. You have to learn to live where you live.

This is also true spiritually. When we become a Christian, we have the wisdom of God's word in our hand, and we have the Holy Spirit living inside us. That is true,

but a spiritual war goes on. We experience the same thing the apostle Paul talked about in Romans.

Text: Romans 7:15-19

We live our lives every day in a spiritual war.

1. The war of doubt and faith
2. The war of anxiety and trust
3. The war of hope and despair
4. The war of submission and rebellion

Illustration: Philippians 1:6 tells us that the spiritual war will not be over until Christ returns.

Application: If a sincere Christian does not understand this they will live a confused and frustrated life. There will be times when:

1. Doubt seems to win the war.
2. Anxiety seems to win the war.
3. Despair seems to win the war.
4. Rebellion seems to win the war.

Conclusion: A dentist in Sulphur Springs, Texas, and a Methodist, taught this Baptist pastor a good lesson. He said, "You have to live where you live." That helped me both physically and spiritually.

The solution is to put the Word of God in your mind each morning to prepare you for the things that will come your way. Store God's Words away when you do not need them and they will be there when you do need them.