

The Enemy Within

Week #4 - Paul

My value is determined by my performance! From your review at work to the raise you get, whether it's the ACT score or GPA number that colleges look at - the message the world says is this is true. That's what makes this enemy within us all so important to remove because spiritually on our own we are anything but a success. Thankfully, our value in God's eyes is not determined by our performance but by Jesus' accomplishments - his perfect life, death in our place and resurrection. These things give us something far better than worldly success. They give us hope and a future.

Performance = Worth

- Romans 7:15,18-19,24 — *15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do...For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing...24 What a wretched man I am!*

How's your **heart**?

- Romans 7:24,25 — *Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*
- Ephesians 2:4-9 - *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

Jesus' performance makes me **worthy**.

- Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*
- Romans 12:1 - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

Healthy Heart Habit #4

Performance = **Worship**

- 2 Corinthians 5:9 — *So we make it our goal to please him.*

Points to Ponder

- 1) What makes the lie that my performance = my worth so powerful? What is the impact on the heart when we believe it from an earthly perspective? Why is the spiritual impact even greater? How does the truth about Jesus' performance help us replace the lie with the truth?
- 2) Reread Ephesians 2:8-10 Pick out 3 phrases or words in verses 8 and 9 that the Apostle Paul uses to leave no doubt about whose performance makes we worthy. Because I am worthy, what does verse 10 then tell me about my performance?
- 3) Challenge - Evaluate your current Give Root. Consider 1 specific way that you can please God this week at home, work, and church by using your spiritual gifts and time as an act of worship to please him.

Homework: 1 Peter 4:12-19