

Title: Roadblocks to our Journey

Text: Romans 5:8-10

Date: November 16, 2014

Place: DCOG

Theme: The Spirit Filled Life

I hate it! It is a test of my relationship with Christ. It puts stress on the entire family.

You know what I am talking about, it is the detours or roadblocks that add time, distance, stress, and frustration to any long journey.

You know how it works. I check the map and put the coordinates into the GPS. It will direct me upon the fastest route. Come on, don't give me woe here, it's a two day trip and I don't plan to stop and see the sights.

I'm down the road six hours. We are into a stretch that doesn't provide many alternative routes when it happens. Traffic slows to less than a crawl. Four lanes are reduced to one lane. Everyone in the other land is trying to get into my lane. It is a new construction zone and then top it off, someone down the road has an accident in the only moving lane. Previously moving lane!

What can I do? This roadblock has stolen my joy.

Have you ever been there?

Our Christian life can be much like that journey. We like what Christ has to offer and we want to associate with him, especially when we hear that he wants us to have an abundant and fruitful Christian life.

**The Problem:** Our focus on self, sometimes called self-centeredness, put our egos into control.

**I.     The self-centered person trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life.**

- In our study of God, this is called carnal.

A. The carnal person is either uninformed about, or has forgotten, God's love, ...

### **Romans 5:8-10**

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*[9] Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! [10] For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!*

...uninformed about, or has forgotten God's forgiveness...

### **2 Peter 1:9**

*But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.*

...uninformed about, or has forgotten God's power.

### **Acts 1:8**

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

B. This self-centered person has an up-and-down spiritual experience.

### **1 Cor. 3:1-3**

*Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. [2] I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not*

ready. [3] *You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?*

- C. The self-centered person cannot understand himself – they want to do what is right, but cannot.

**Romans 7:15, 19, 22-23**

*I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*

[19] *For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.*

[22] *For in my inner being I delight in God's law; [23] but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.*

- D. The self-centered person fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life.

**Romans 8:7**

*The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

**Galatians 5:16-18**

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

- II. **The self-centered, carnal, person looks different than a spirit-filled believer.**

What might this self-centered, carnal, person look like?

- A. Might be ignorant of his spiritual heritage.
- B. Experiences unbelief.
- C. Lives a life of disobedience.

**1 John 2:3**

*We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands.*

- D. Experiences a loss of Love for God and for others.
- E. Probably has a poor prayer life.
- F. Has no desire for Bible Study.
- G. Condemns others with a legalistic attitude.
- H. Harbors impure thoughts.
- I. Is jealousy of others.
- J. May be overwhelmed with guilt.
- K. Lives a life full of worry.

**1 John 3:6**

*No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.*

- L. Struggles with discouragement.
- M. Portrays a critical spirit.
- N. Daily experiences frustration.
- O. Lives a life filled with aimlessness.

**III. The person who professes to be a Christian but who continues to practice sin should realize that he may not be a Christian at all.**

**1 John 3:9**

*No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.*

A. Let's be honest.

***Ephesians 5:5***

*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

B. Where do we find our help to change this?

- a. Jesus promised that we could be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

***John 7:37-39***

*On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." [39] By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

1. Jesus has the answer.
2. Come to Him, the Holy Spirit, and he will satisfy our spirit's desire.
3. If we trust and believe in Him, His spirit will flow through us.
4. He is giving us the opportunity today.

**Conclusion:** We started this morning talking about roadblocks. These are the decisions that we might make without the influence or direction of God. They take us down a path that leads away from Him.

I know that most of us here this morning profess a relationship with Jesus Christ. But are we truly Christ-

followers? Does the Holy Spirit lead us, or do we just allow Him to tag alongside, to bless our selfish conclusions?

Are you filled up inside with a love for God? Do you want to be?

Remember what we just read, *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*

Come and drink!