

# CONTRASTS

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Begin with the \_\_\_\_\_

Of \_\_\_\_\_

Of \_\_\_\_\_

Of \_\_\_\_\_

The state of the \_\_\_\_\_

The place of \_\_\_\_\_

The invitation to \_\_\_\_\_

Out of \_\_\_\_\_

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

Scripture is really, really good at drawing contrasts, and I think it is important. One thing that I don't touch on in the sermon so much (but I might, we'll see how I preach) are the gray areas. If I may, using two terms from sermon, it's the place of being the *sober addict*. It's a place where two things are true that are often in conflict with each other – so it probably would have been easier had I just left it at Paul saying sober vs. drunk, but I think Paul is definitely getting at sober vs. addict when it comes to sin, and perhaps leading us to a place where the sober addict comes forth. That is, how do I keep wanting safety and stability while at the same time placing my hope in Jesus? I think a lot of language that is getting used currently (some criticizing people being fearful, and some criticizing people being foolish and make no mistake, both of these are being used in an incredibly judgmental way at the moment in Christianity) is trying to get at the deeper dynamic of the sober addict. Read Romans 7 and reflect on the tension Paul feels.

Reflect:

Particularly evocative for me is how Paul describes his own body/mind as the place of conflict between Jesus and sin. How do you feel/perceive that “war” in you?

When people aren't wrestling with that in themselves, it generally is directed outwards at others. How have you given / received judgment over the fidelity of others to Jesus?

Respond:

Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Remember: “So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.” Romans 7:25b