Rom 7:15-25 Central, Enid 8/16/70

Intro. 1. Speak a word for hypocrites who keep ch's going.
2. Strange, I know, since everywhere denounced.
3. And everywhere integrity approved.
a. Harmony of heart and hand.
b. Concord of mind + act, thought and deed.
c. To be whole, one person.

I Of course, generally agreed Integrity most diff. to achieve.
1. Seems in all of us a distance between mind and act.
a. Exper. in small ways - thinking of grass being mowed, garage cleaned. Body lags.
b. Exper. in more painful way - Mrs. Brown died and I kept thinking I would go see her. Intending to visit new neighbor.
c. Exper. in more prof. ways - Hamlet faces a grave wrong - immobile; Brutus and nat'l crisis - pause
d. Paul - the mind - - - - - .
2. Why is it can think so much higher, better than we act, do?
a. Fear, cowardice of being wrong?
b. Act a compromise of idea?
c. Doing is undignified?
d. James says problem of forgetting the idea.
e. Paul says a demon force - Sin at work. Prevents good - turns good to evil, even command.
3. Whatever the cause, fact remains. Hear a sermon, agree, want a copy - our town, ch., family, life not changed.

II But it is exactly the opposite of this problem I have in mind.
1. Not serve God in mind but not in body but serve God with body but not in mind.

2. Body goes to ch., teaches, sings, waits tables, serves in S.S., gives money – but mind unenvolved, unmoved, unturned, unexcited.

3. Such goes on – ch. kept functioning.

4. But feel guilty because mind not involved. This guilt drags body to halt.

a. Note from Gerchen – doing the motions.

b. Comment from chaplain's wife – Mind not there. Can let mind come & go. Been there before.

c. "Get involved" not an answer. There are, except mind.

5. To such, let me say.

a. It's a sin to act & do when not mentally involved, God forgives it. All. – a mother with baby that cry it might. One thinks of helping as mother should; other gets up, helps, next morning doesn't remember. Oth. Many diapers changed, floors swept, sales made, papers graded – mind not caught up in it.

b. Can't go on forever. Will quit. Habit breaks, guilt melts down. We compelled to stimulate, agitate, capture the mind and thought for Gospel.

c. Together prayerfully seek an awakening. Stabbed & stirred and aroused by importance & urge of task. Pray for it, seek it, talk of it; ask for some vision of ch that make a difference

Unless this come, matter of time.

Until this comes, God bless those who change diapers or sleep, who keep store open floor clear, light on – waiting. God will call again for some to represent the way of Jesus in our time – those who dare to do it will see all things become new.

I think the time has come.