

what is best for us, for others, or for the work of the Church.

Spurgeon said, "If I knew God would never say "No" to any of my prayers again, I would never pray again. God's refusals are our greatest protection."

***For a free copy of the message "When God Says No and I am Hurting" email us.**

Day 3 Romans 7:1 John 5:13 / 1:8-10

The People The people around the cradle, from senior citizens like Zechariah and Simeon to probable teenagers like Joseph and Mary, were what we would call "faithful" Christians. They were obedient and "**blameless**", like Noah (Genesis 6). They were not sinless. (1 Jn. 1:8-10 / 5:13) Mathew Henry explains: "It was not that they never did anything to come short of their duty; but it was ever their constant endeavor to come up to it."

"Blameless" Noah got drunk and "blameless" Zechariah doubted what Gabrael said. Romans 7 shows how Christians feel when we do wrong.

The Place This all took place in the inner room of the Temple, where God met man in the OT. God's shining (glory) presence lived (Ex. 40:34) behind a huge curtain, where the High Priest could enter only once a year on the *Day of Atonement*-securing forgiveness through blood sacrifice (Ex. 30 / Lev. 23).

When Jesus died that curtain was ripped apart "**from top to bottom**" as though by the hand of God (Mt. 27:51). In Jesus, God had come out and opened the door to all who come in repentance and faith