Text "The good that I would I do not and the evil..." 1

Introduction—Our thinking goes back to Paul this morning
(1) Show Paul struggle with himself in attempting to fulfill the law
(2) Show how out of this experience grew the text.
   Show how Paul’s experience is a continual experience in the life of all
   1 Quote Ovid 2
   2 Quote Goethe 3
   3 Quote Augustine 4
   4 Quote Plato 5
   5
   There is, therefore, the perennial tension between what we ought to be and what we actually are
   We are forever aware that the “isness” of our being is far from the “oughtness” of our highest ideals
   The “isness” of our present nature is out of proportion to the eternal “oughtness” forever confronting us. 6

I How is this tension removed
   1. Accept the fact that you are in need and that you do have an evil element in your nature. Don’t try to rationalize and make it right
   2. Without alibi and pretense lay your life before God
   3. God will give you his grace You will have power that you didn’t know that you had
      This is what Paul did and the result after Damascus was amazing.
      Conversion for didn’t just begin on Damascus, he had been troubled about it long before 7

The God of the universe forever stands before us knocking. Who will open the door. He is there to help you. He doesn’t just stand at the door, but he knocks. If you open the door, he will come in an help you release the tension 8

AD CSKC Sermon file, folder 67, The Human Tension

1 Cf Romans 7:19
2 King probably refers to Ovid Metamorphoses 7:20, as he does in Man’s Sin and God’s Grace, 1954–1960, p. 383 in this volume
3 King probably refers to a quote by Goethe as used in Sheen’s book Peace of Soul, p. 36 “Goethe regretted that God had made only one man of him when there was enough material in him for both a rogue and a gentleman “ He also made this reference in the sermon “Mastering Our Evil Selves” / “Mastering Ourselves,” 5 June 1949, p. 95 in this volume
4 King probably refers to Augustine Confessions 8:7, as he does in “Creating the Abundant Life,” 26 September 1954, p. 190 in this volume
5 King probably refers to Plato’s analysis of the conflicted personality from Phaedrus 246a–247c, as he does in Man’s Sin and God’s Grace, 1954–1960, p. 383 in this volume
6 Cf Niebuhr, Beyond Tragedy, pp. 137–138
7 Paul’s conversion experience as recorded in Acts 9:1–22 occurred on the road to Damascus
8 Cf Revelation 3:20
"Be ye Perfect"

"Be ye perfect even as ye are in heaven." (Matthew 5:48)

In sermon notes titled “Be Ye Perfect,” King considers Jesus’ command from Matthew 5:48 and concludes, “to be a true son of the heavenly father one must be thoroughgoing in the exercise of love, as God is, without reservation or discrimination” (1948–1954).