



**THE
LORD OF THE RINGS**
MAY 6 & 7 | RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

“The Lord of the Rings is of course a fundamentally religious and Christian work; unconsciously so at first, but consciously in the revision.”
- J.R.R. Tolkien

FOUR KEY BIBLICAL THEMES IN LORD OF THE RINGS

1. The Problem of _____

It promises what _____, but takes what _____

“You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, and it's your last free act.” Romans 6:16 TM

There is a _____ inside me

“My new life tells me to do right, but the old nature that is still inside me loves to sin...” Romans 7:21 TLB

I must _____

“All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master.” Romans 6:18 TM

I need a power outside myself to _____

“But I need something more! For if I know the law but still can't keep it, and if the power of sin within me keeps sabotaging my best intentions, I obviously need help! I realize that I don't have what it takes. I can will it, but I can't do it.” Romans 7:17 TM

“Is there no one who can do anything for me? The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does.” Romans 7:25 TM



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2. The Value of _____

“We have different gifts according to the grace given us...”
Romans 12:4a

Three Values of Community:

- You can _____ (Galatians 6:2)
- You can give each other _____ (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- You see the impact of the _____ (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)

3. The Importance of _____

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice...” Romans 12:1a

“And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber...” Romans 13:11
(See Ephesians 5:16)

4. The Ultimate Triumph of _____

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18

THE BOTTOM LINE:

I am in a _____ ...that, by God’s grace, I can _____

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:21

Resources used in the development of this message

“Faith Lessons in Lord of the Rings”, Greg Hanson, sermon preached at Sunrise Wesleyan Church, April 15, 2007
Ralph C. Wood, The Gospel According to Tolkien, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2003)

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