

How Good is Good Enough?

Foundations

Romans 3:21-24

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

But now, irrespective of law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

This week, we focus on “I believe in the forgiveness of sins” on this part of our journey through The Apostles’ Creed. In many aspects of our culture, we follow a pattern of setting the bar to reach certain levels of achievement. ***When you think about your relationship with God, do you think of it as setting the bar at a certain level for you to win his favor? Does being part of a church equate to your wanting to be a good person or empowering your kids with strong moral values, or is it more than that?***

When we talk about the forgiveness of sins, it leads us to think about forming our lives around what is real, true, and good. First and foremost, we need to consider what it means to be human. We can be good, but our problem is consistency. ***How comfortable are you with the description of “a sinner, loved by God, saved by grace?” How does this speak in particular to your humanity?***

Simply striving to be a good person in God’s eyes minimizes the power of his love for us. This way of thinking about God minimizes pain, and allows people who have experienced harm to be re-harmed. God’s love is far stronger for the harm that sin inflicts than what we can reconcile in our human minds. ***Read today’s scripture passage, and consider how the ferocity of God’s love frees us from the harm we simultaneously receive and inflict. When we think this way, how does this remove us from being the center of the story and concerned only with our goodness?***

Heavenly Father, enable us this week to be able to genuinely utter the words, “who am I, a sinner, ferociously loved by You and saved by your amazing grace.” May your love wash over us this week and fill us with a sense of how important we are. We thank you for this love and truth, and ask your help as we spread this love and grace to all those whom you place in our paths this week. Amen.