



Lord's Day Worship

June 7th, 2020

Opening Scripture Reading & Prayer of Thanksgiving

Read or have someone in your home read Titus 3:1-7 aloud and then have an open time of prayer, giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness and mercy. After closing in prayer, you may begin to play the service audio or video from the church website.

Riverwood Family Greeting

Marilyn Eade

Song of Praise

"From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)"

Elder Greeting

Mark Reed

Song of Praise

"O the Deep Deep Love of Jesus"

The Teaching of the Word

Credo – Part 18– "The Forgiveness of Sins"

Song of Response

"Reformation Hymns"

Benediction

Read or have someone in your home read aloud Micah 7:18.

CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 18

"Forgiveness of Sins"

7 June 2020

Introduction: Sin & Injustice

- The reality of human sin should be glaringly obvious to us in light of the recent events in our country. We, however, are often prone to excuse our own sin and the sin of those who are like us or who agree with us, while simultaneously condemning the sins of those who differ from us.

Isa. 59:1-2a—Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,

Isa. 59:8-9a—The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace.

Isa. 59:12-13a—For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities: transgressing, and denying the Lord, and turning back from following our God, speaking oppression and revolt

Isa. 59:15b-16,20—The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him... ²⁰ "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH,
AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.

Key Point: God graciously extends forgiveness of sins to us in order that we might be reconciled to Him and live then as His witnesses, proclaiming His _____ to others.

The Holy Spirit: His Work

- We believe that the Holy Spirit enables the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in order that sinners may receive the benefit of His work for the _____ of their sins.

The Forgiveness of Sins & the Work of the Triune God

- God the Father planned and purposed to rescue and redeem ruined sinners.
- God the Son accomplished all that was needed in order for ruined sinners to have their sin forgiven.
- God the Spirit applies the benefits of the Son's work in order that sinners might truly receive forgiveness of sins.
 - ⇒ The Church is "Holy" because she is comprised of those who have had their sins forgiven and been declared righteous.
 - ⇒ Believers from all dispensations (ages) share in common the forgiveness of sins because of Christ's atoning death.

Acts 26:16-18—¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Forgiveness Defined

- In the OT the concept is tied almost exclusively to an act of releasing or liberating someone/thing from something confining.
Lev. 25:10—And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.
- In the NT the prior sense remains but is focused more on the act of freeing from an obligation, guilt, or punishment (a pardon or cancellation).
Acts 2:38a—And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins,

Forgiveness Pictured

- A _____ →

Luke 15:20—And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

- A _____ →

Rom. 4:6-8—⁶ just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: ⁷ "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS ARE FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED; ⁸ BLESSED IS THE MAN AGAINST WHOM THE LORD WILL NOT COUNT HIS SIN."

"The judge can pardon but not forgive. The loving parent can forgive where such forgiveness would be inappropriate in a courtroom...In the NT these...are intensely conflated: it is through divine forgiveness that acquittal is offered. It is not that those free from condemnation are then forgiven—that would reverse the order. Rather, those forgiven are thereby freed from condemnation."

— Thomas Oden, *Classic Christianity*

⇒ *The forgiveness of sins central to Christian* _____.

Truth #1 – We are _____!

John 16:7-8—⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment

“The Holy Spirit reasons down from what God is, and this produces a total change in my soul. It is not that I abhor my sins; indeed I may have been walking very well; but it is ‘I abhor myself.’ This is how the Holy Spirit reasons; He shows us what we are, and that is the reason why He often seems to be very hard and does not give peace to the soul, as we are not relieved until we...acknowledge from our hearts what we are.”
—J.N. Darby

Rom. 5:8—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 3:23-26a—²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood... This was to show God’s righteousness,

“Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him and say—Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, I am your sin. You took on you what was mine; you set on me what was yours. You became what you were not that I might become what I was not.”
—Martin Luther

Truth #2 – We are _____!

Gal. 3:26-27—²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Rom. 8:14-17a—¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ

Key Point: Knowing that we have been forgiven and justified by God provides the foundation for a life of _____ and _____.

⇒ *The forgiveness of sins central to the Christian* _____.

Truth #1 – _____ do not know the Lord!

Psa. 2:1-2—¹ Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed

Eph. 2:1-3—¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Truth #2 – God has _____ us with the message of the Gospel!

Matt. 28:18-20—¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

“We [often] want to be driven by a purpose that has been tailored just right for our own individual lives (which is of course infinitely preferable to living aimlessly), when we should be seeing the purpose of all life, including our own, wrapped up in the great mission of God for the whole of creation.”
—Christopher J.H. Wright, *The Mission of God*

Key Point: As we _____ ourselves in worshiping and serving God we will find ourselves engaged in His mission to bring the Gospel to all people!

“Passion for God in worship precedes the offer of God in preaching. You can’t commend that which you don’t cherish. Missionaries will never call out, “Let the nations be glad!”, who cannot say from the heart, “I rejoice in the Lord...I will be glad and exult in thee, I will sing praise to thy name, O Most High” (Psalm 104:34; 9:2). Missions begins and ends in worship.”
—John Piper, *Let the Nations Be Glad*

Concluding Thought

The forgiveness of sins that we have received is intended by God to make us into a _____ and forgiving people!

Luke 11:4—and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.