

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

1/7/18

Text: Romans 4:1-16 (ESV)

Title: From Faith to Faith

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

In his sermon, Tim took us through Romans 4 as Paul engages with the leaders of the church who were wrongly believing that God had been dealing with his people on the basis of their performance, rather than on the basis of His grace. As we saw in this passage, God's promise of grace has never been, and can never be something that we can earn, or live up to as a standard. It is only ever something that we can joyfully accept and live in light of on the basis of faith through God's grace. And so, in light of the truth of the gospel, we get to decide if we will live our lives on the basis of wages and earnings, or if we will live on the basis of grace. If we could not earn God's grace and mercy and yet we receive it freely, then who are we to demand others' performance to receive grace and mercy from us?

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said God give us a status based solely on His grace and the work of Jesus on the cross, but we've been trained to reward a status based on people's performance.*
 - **Think about your spouse, your friends, your kids, your parents, your coworkers, your leaders, your employees...what status or rewards do you withhold until there's adequate performance? Who has to EARN grace from you?**
2. *Tim quoted Isaiah 64, that all of our good works are like filthy rags before God. Our best day we can offer to God is like handing him a menstrual garment; like trying to pay your bill with monopoly money.*
 - **What are you trying to offer to God in order to earn his love and blessing?**
 - **What keeps you from offering Him the only thing that counts, Jesus' work on your behalf?**
3. *It is only possible for a holy God to bless a sinful person, if he receives the curse on himself; He takes the punishment you earned, and gives you the blessing he earned.*
 - **What is it about performance and earning that makes you go back to that way of living?**
 - **Where do you see your greatest need for a lifestyle of grace and faith? Ask God to work that into your heart.**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship the LORD for His graciousness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He does not deal with us in terms of wages and performance but rather in terms of mercy to all who trust in His work.

2. How have you lived doubting either the depth of your sin or God's goodness and power to save? Confess your unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and to persuade you of His trustworthiness.

3. Give thanks to Jesus for His willingness to bear the curse you deserve and to generously give you the credit that only He deserves. Thank Him for keeping the Father's promise and giving you what you could never earn.

4. Who do you know that struggles with grace by faith, tending instead to want to earn whatever they have? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see the pitiful inadequacy of whatever they would try to accomplish compared with God's immeasurable generosity.

5. Pray for hope and encouragement because of the Spirit's work to transform your character. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of goodness, trusting that He alone is the source of any good in you.