

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/29/18

Text: Romans 9:1-8, 30-33, 10:1-4 (ESV)

Title: Righteousness By Faith, Not Works

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 taught us from Romans 9, about the two contrasting approaches to our righteous standing before God. While God offers His grace and righteousness freely to us, we still live our lives based on our performance, and expect others to do the same. We've been taught throughout our lives that better performance equals better reward, and vice-versa. So rather than gladly receiving God's grace, we look to our performance and begin demanding things of God (a happy marriage, babies, beauty, wealth, comfort..etc.). Like a young bride who has excitedly said yes to a beautiful wedding, gifts, decorations, and a big celebration, we come to the wedding day and realize we've been so focussed on everything else, we never truly fell in love with the groom (Jesus). The beauty of the gospel is that our salvation can NEVER be based on our works, but instead is fully based on Jesus' work in his life, death and resurrection. Even at our very worst, He has offered Himself freely to us, so that in the midst of any circumstance, joyful or painful, we can look to Him as our loving bridegroom, and we can hold to a future hope to be united with Him forever.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. As Tim said, even if we've freely accepted God's grace, we quickly turn our faith into a performance relationship. Where, rather than our responding to God's invitation, we expect God to respond to the good record we've brought Him.*
 - How in your life have you been taught that performance brings reward?**
 - How was that reinforced in your faith?**
- 2. As Tim said, we twist God's promises to believe that somehow our good behavior makes us better in His eyes, or in other peoples'. We seek to establish our own righteousness, rather than resting in His, depending on our record, rather than Christ's.*
 - What things do you do to try to please God?**
 - In what areas of the Christian life are you just trying to keep up?**
 - How do both of these mindsets keep you from resting in and loving Jesus?**
- 3. Jesus has loved us at our worst, not because of any performance or record of our own, but simply because of His love and grace.*
 - How have you loved all the things Jesus offers (the Wedding), and missed loving Him (our Bridegroom)?**
 - How has performance been your standard for loving people, and what would grace look like instead?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship 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 from this sermon.)

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 *(My Neighbor)*

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 offer of Grace – and marriage – in the Gospel. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for His trustworthiness as our Maker and Redeemer.*
- 2. How have you lived, in effect, working to earn God's love? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you for your folly and to awaken you to see your need for His work as our Savior.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for how He works through weakness, brokenness and being discredited – proving His glory and humbling our prideful independence. Thank Him for lovingly getting work done that none of us can do!*
- 4. Who do you know that is proud and committed to establishing their own righteous record? Pray for them, asking the Lord to open their eyes to their true helplessness and need for Jesus and His holiness by faith.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to live in joyful amazement at His saving grace. Pray for the fruit of joy and love, so that your wonder at being saved by Jesus' work results in humble joy and love for others.*