

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

10/14/18

Text: Romans 13:10-14 (ESV)

Title: The Now & The Not Yet

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

Today we looked at Romans 13 and the idea that we live in a “time between the times,” often referred to as the “Now/Already and the Not Yet.” As Paul wrote his letter to the Roman church they were simultaneously being told of the grace and mercy that had been shown to them by God, but they were also under terrible persecution, and still experiencing the brokenness and sinfulness of not only their surroundings, but also their very own hearts. Even in light of the promises of the gospel, we are still broken and sinful, demanding our own pleasure and our own way because we don’t live in light of our calling and destination. The beauty of the gospel is that we can be freed From our sinfulness and demanding spirit, and be saved To a life of love and mercy. Like a warrior preparing for battle, we can put on Christ both to fight against evil and to do everything in love because Christ has already put on us and freed us from ourselves, and we know for certain that our final destination is at His side for eternity.

Reflection Questions:

1. *“The Already and the Not Yet”:* Tim said if we forget that we live in the “Already,” we fret and fear the unknown, as if Jesus hasn’t already won; if we forget that we live in the “Not Yet,” we live overconfident and lazy, as if we’re not still in a war.
 - **Which of these tends to describe the way you live? What does that look like?**
2. *Tim said that evil does not create or function on its own, it is a misuse of what has been made. In our sinfulness we can take what God has designed, and manipulate it to our own selfish uses.*
 - **Where in your life have you been convinced (now or in the past) that you were supposed to be able to have it your way or get the greatest amount of pleasure?**
3. *Tim said that “preparation fits the destination” (like wearing camouflage to go hunting). If we know we are in a war against spiritual darkness, and we know that Christ has already won, we can put on Christ and hold loving as our highest priority.*
 - **If someone were to look at how you’re clothing yourself (how you operate your family, work, leisure, finances) where would they think you were going?**
 - **What would it look like to “put on Christ” in each area of your life?**

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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 wise mastery over all of time, that what He has begun He will surely finish. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that He has cut time in half, dividing darkness from light!
2. How have you lived preoccupied with yourself so that you actually love very little? Confess your lovelessness to Jesus, asking Him to cleanse you and restore His likeness in you.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for putting on our "clothes" (our record) on the Cross so that we could be clothed in His righteousness. Thank Him for His Grace to rescue us and take us where He has already successfully been.
4. Who is the neediest person you know today? Pray for them, asking the Father to help them, as in today's passage from Romans, to give them His light or armor, to clothe them in Christ.
5. Ask the Spirit to help you to live in light of His Gospel. Pray for wisdom and discernment of how you can better live out His love, power and eternal perspective in the midst of this world's darkness.