

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

11/11/18

Text: Romans 15:14-33 (ESV)

Title: Pushing Onward

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 the sermon today we looked at how the Apostle Paul had a unique Perspective and Passion that were both founded in the gospel and gave him the direction and drive for his life to be completely reoriented to serve God. In the midst of our sin and brokenness, we become blinded by our pride and lose sense of our direction, and we become dulled in our unbelief and lack passion for the gospel. As Tim said, it's not until we realize the depth of our brokenness and sin that we can truly understand and be overwhelmed by God's grace, his free gift to us. Contrary to all religion or irreligion in the world, the Gospel offers a new way that allows us to simultaneously be completely wrong, and yet fully loved by God in Christ. It's only through the hope of the gospel, and the spirit of Jesus giving us a renewed perspective and passion, that our entire lives become transformed and everything we do becomes an offering of thanksgiving and worship to God.

Reflection Questions:

1. Quoted from C.S. Lewis, in *The Weight of Glory*, "Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."
 - **What pleasures have hold of your heart that keep you from the greater pleasure and infinite joy of the gospel?**
 - **What pleasures have hold of your family or community group, more than the gospel?**
2. Tim said one of the wonders about Paul is that he really believed in Jesus, and he really believed in the Communion of the Saints. There is a work of the gospel that only happens when God's people gather, worship and work together.
 - **How have you tried to live separated or self-sufficient in your walk with God?**
 - **Like a night-club, what list have you written to keep certain people in and certain people out (of your life, relationships, family, community, ministry...etc.)?**
3. Tim said the Gospel gives us both a Perspective (a direction to go), and a Passion (a speed/drive to get there). Both the direction we're going, and the speed at which we travel are essential to getting to our destination. So where are we headed?
 - **If someone looked at your life, what would they say is your passion and direction? In what ways have you lost your perspective or passion for the gospel?**

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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, God Almighty, for the goodness of His reign. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that by His power and kindness He works to not destroy but save sinners like us.
2. How is your lifestyle ingrown and driven by comfort and ease more than it is fueled by love for others? Confess your selfishness to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and enliven you to His Father and to your neighbors.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for how greatly He has moved in order to come to our rescue. Thank Him for the miracle of His passion for us so that we could be redeemed.
4. Who do you know well that does not yet trust in Jesus? Ask the Lord to pour out His Spirit upon them to show them their need for Christ, and to enable them to turn away from being their own god and trust Him.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear the fruit of joy and love in your life. Pray that He would help you to live in light of His Grace as His child so that you can live for Him with passion and perspective.