

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

11/25/18

Text: Romans 1:1-6 & 16:25-27 (ESV)

Title: The Obedience of 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 showed us that the Apostle Paul begins and ends his letter to the Roman church declaring that his purpose is to bring about “the obedience of faith” in the life of the believer. Often we will obey God’s commands or fulfill the “should’s” of our lives out of duty or guilt, or we will ignore His commands because we’ve misunderstood the Gospel to only be about forgiveness. The reality is that ALL of our faith is given to us as a GRACE (a free undeserved work of God) both to forgive us and wash us clean of our sin, AND to restore and remake us in His image. Once we truly understand the immensity of God’s love and grace for us, then our response to Him, in true love and obedience to Him, would only come from an overflow of love from a new heart. Then, as God continues to reveal areas of brokenness and sin, we can cry out in prayer to the only one who is able to change them, Him.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Tim said we live in a world of “standards” we must meet, both from God and from the world. Often we will obey these standards out of a demeanor of “should” an obligation, duty, or guilt, but not from a demeanor of “love” or “desire”.*
 - ***What things do you do because you “should”, but not necessarily out of “love” or “desire”?***
 - ***In what areas do you obey God out of “should” rather than out of a love or desire to obey?***
2. *Tim said we have received grace as a gift from God, both to forgive us AND to change our hearts and make us look more like Christ. The reality of a gift is that it communicates something lacking on the part of the recipient. We need to be forgiven and healed.*
 - ***How have you lived believing only one side of the gospel (that it’s just about forgiveness) or doubting it altogether?***
 - ***What things have you tried to change about yourself, or someone else, rather than asking God to change them?***
3. *Only God can forgive a sinner and wash them clean, and only God, by His grace, can change a person’s heart and desires and bring them in line with His. Rather than a force of will on ourselves or others, God changes and remakes our heart to look like His.*
 - ***How have you tried to change someone (or yourself) by a force of will?***
 - ***Where do you need to let go of your will and ask God to change your heart?***

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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 who is worthy of our highest efforts and our deepest joy. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit that He is gracious to not only work for our forgiveness but also for our transformation in Christ.*
- 2. How have you lived doubting that you need to be changed, or that God would ever work to redeem you? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking Him to forgive you and transform your heart.*
- 3. Give thanks to Jesus for His amazing work of Atonement and New Creation. Thank Him for dying in your place to remove your guilt, and for fully obeying God's good design to succeed where we and Adam failed.*
- 4. Who do you know that struggles with willfulness? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them see their inadequacy to ever accomplish all that God has called us to in obedience, and to trust Jesus' Grace instead.*
- 5. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you the fruit of love, joy and faithfulness. Pray for the Spirit's power in your heart to help you experience real joy in obeying all that Jesus has called you to.*