

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

10th-15th June 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:1-5 - Great Love

notes We re going to be using Matthew Henry s commentary on Romans for these next few chapters. In these verses Paul declares his great concern for the nation and people of the Jews - he is troubled that so many of them are enemies of the gospel and far from salvation. Despite the way the Jews have persecuted him, and despite his strong words about their rejection by God, Paul wants to make it clear that it truly breaks his heart to see them on this road to a lost eternity.

In verses 1 and 2 Paul asserts that he is not lying, that he has a great sadness in his heart over the Jews. He back this up with a very serious statement. He is willing to undergo the greatest misery to do them good. Love is to be self-denying. Because he prefers the glory of God s grace in the salvation of many, Paul is willing to forego his own happiness to purchase theirs. He would be content to be cut off from the land of the living, in the most shameful manner, as a curse. He would be content to be excommunicated from the faithful, to be separate from the church, if that would do them any good. Paul, like Moses (Ex.32:33), is willing to give up his own salvation so that God might be glorified and Israel might be saved. This is loving your enemies!

Paul gives two reasons why he feels such love. First, they are his family, his people. We should be especially concerned for the spiritual good of our family. Secondly, they are God s people and have been given numerous privileges: external adoption and the Promised Land; symbols and signs of God s presence and guidance; the covenants, the law, and the worship; the promises; Godly ancestors; but the greatest privilege of all is that Christ came as a Jew.

- questions**
1. What causes Paul sadness?
 2. What blessings had the Jews been given?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 50:7-12
1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:25-29 - A Remnant

notes Paul now shows how the rejection of the Jews, and the bringing in of the Gentiles, is foretold in the Old Testament. The prophet Hosea speaks of the taking in of a great many of the Gentiles (Hosea 1:10; 2:23). The Gentiles had not been the people of God. But God says He will call them His people despite their unworthiness. How encouraging to know that the sins of our past, our unworthiness, is no barrier to God s present grace and mercy. Those whom God calls He loves. They will not need to be Jewish citizens, or go up to Jerusalem to worship, but wherever they are, scattered over the face of the earth, God will call them His people.

Isaiah 10:22-23 speaks of the saving of a remnant. God will abandon a great many of the seed of Abraham. Though the number of the Israelites is as the sand by the sea, only a remnant will be saved. We also see here that God will complete the work. God always finishes what He starts, whether judgement or mercy. The rejection of the unbelieving Jews God will finish in their utter destruction by the Romans. The spreading of the gospel and the growth of the church in other nations God will also finish. What God has started in us, He will finish. God will not only complete His work, but He will complete it without delay. His plans are always on track - everything happens in His perfect time.

Isaiah also shows in Isaiah 1:9 that in a time of general calamity and destruction God does preserve a seed. The point of Paul quoting this passage is to show that it s not unusual for God to leave the greater part of the Jews to ruin and to keep for Himself only a small remnant. He did this before, and Paul s readers shouldn t be surprised if He does it now. The amazing thing is that, given our sins and what we all deserve, that we are not all destroyed but that for some God shows mercy and grace.

- questions**
1. What does Hosea say?
 2. What does Isaiah say?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 51B:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God s Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
14th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:19-24 - Vessels of Wrath and Mercy

notes Paul is answering the objection that some might raise that if it is up to God to choose some and pass by others, why does He find fault with the ones He passes by? Paul answers with a rebuke. This is not an objection a creature should make against his Creator, man against God. We are to submit to God, not fight against Him. He is the Master, and we are His servants, and servants are not to answer back.

God is our Creator, and it is not our place to challenge His wisdom in disposing of His Creation in one way or another. Paul uses the example of the potter who has every right to make whatever kind of vessel he desires. God makes two kinds of vessels out of the great lump of fallen mankind. He makes vessels of wrath in whom He shows His punishing justice, His hatred of sin, and His power to destroy. Hell is an abundant demonstration of the power of God and His hatred of sin. God is longsuffering towards these vessels of wrath, often giving them lots of time on this earth, but instead of repenting, they harden themselves even more in their sin and prepare themselves even more for eternal death.

But God also makes vessels of mercy. We are saved, not because of any merit in us, but because of God's mercy. We are saved to demonstrate God's goodness and His glory and His grace. And God takes these vessels of mercy and prepares them for Heaven. Sanctification is the preparation of the soul for its inheritance. This is God's work. Sinners fit themselves for Hell, but it is God that prepares saints for Heaven. All those whom God has chosen to go to Heaven later, He prepares for Heaven now. Who are these vessels of mercy? Those whom God has called and predestined, not just of Jews, but also of Gentiles.

questions

1. What do vessels of wrath demonstrate?
2. What do vessels of mercy demonstrate?

praise pray Ps. 51A:7-9

1. Give thanks that God is preparing us for heaven.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
11th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:6-13 - Jacob and Esau

notes Paul is making the point that the rejection of the Jews does not do away with the promise God made to the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.). Nothing that God has spoken can fail. In these verses Paul explains the true meaning and intention of the promise. When God says that He will be a God to Abraham and to his seed, He is not referring to all of Abraham's biological descendants. Not all Israelites are children of God. Grace does not run in the blood, though even today people think God will look kindly on them based on their parents' behaviour or their granny's prayers.

Paul illustrates this using the example of Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael is a biological child of Abraham but is rejected by God. Just like these unbelieving Jews, he has Abraham's blood in his veins. But that is not enough. It is the child who has been chosen and promised, not for any good in himself, but purely by grace that is counted as Abraham's seed. Isaac is a type of all those whom God has chosen from before the beginning of the world, promised to His Son, and given new birth. These children of the promise are Abraham's true offspring and children of God.

The case of Jacob and Esau shows that God's choice has nothing to do with the merits of those involved. Before they are even born, God says that the older will serve the younger. God chooses some and refuses others by His own absolute and sovereign will.

Paul's purpose is to justify God and His mercy and truth, in calling the Gentiles, and taking them into covenant with Himself, while allowing the Jews to continue in unbelief. The choosing of Jacob the younger, and preferring him before Esau the older, is a type of the Jews, though the natural seed of Abraham and the first-born, being laid aside, and the Gentiles, the younger brother, being taken in their stead.

questions

1. Who are the true children of Abraham?
2. Is God's choice based upon our actions?

praise pray Ps. 50:13-18

1. Give thanks for God's grace in choosing you to believe.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
12th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:14-16 - Is God Unjust?

notes In these verses Paul is setting out to prove the absolute sovereignty of God in predestinating some to everlasting life and others to everlasting death. God's choice is not like some kind of eternal reward or punishment based upon His assessment of how well someone has obeyed Him. In other words, His choice is not determined by our actions. Rather, Paul portrays God as Creator, who has made us, some for life and others for death.

The first objection Paul deals with is that God might be considered unjust in arbitrarily choosing some and refusing others. Paul is emphatic in denying this. God is not unjust or unfair. All mankind is sinful and under God's wrath and curse. We all deserve eternal punishment for our sin. What we don't deserve is grace. God sovereignly picks out some from this fallen race to be His, to demonstrate His grace and His glory. He gives His gifts to whomever He wants, without giving us any reason; according to His own good pleasure He picks some and passes by others. He is absolute and He is God; He will do what He will do, and He does not need to answer to anybody. He is completely independent from us, and has every right to show mercy to whichever of His creatures He chooses. God Himself claims this sovereign power and freedom. God is good, just, and right - it is His character, so whatever He does is also good, just, and right. Paul stresses again that God's mercy is not based on anything we do or think. God is the one that makes His people different from everyone else. The reason why the unworthy, undeserving Gentiles are called into the church, while the greater part of the Jews are left to perish in unbelief, is not because the Gentiles are better deserving, but because of God's free grace. That is why God must have the glory for any grace we have.

questions
1. Is God unjust?
2. What do we all deserve?

praise pray Ps. 50:19-21
1. Give thanks for God's grace.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
13th June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.
Romans 5:10

reading Romans 9:17-19 - Pharaoh

notes God raises Pharaoh up, brings him into the world, makes him famous, gives him a kingdom and power, and hardens his heart. God often raises up sinners and gives them prosperity and privilege and keeps judgement from them for a time. God's purpose in Pharaoh was to show His power. If Pharaoh had not been so high and mighty, so bold, the power of God would not be so obvious in the ruining of him. But God's glory, holiness, and power is clearly seen in the overthrow of such a hardened, powerful ruler. Paul's conclusion is that just as God is free to show mercy to anyone, He is free to harden anyone. Either way demonstrates His glory and sovereignty. God is debtor to no man, His grace is His own, and He may give it or withhold it as it pleases Him. None of us deserve grace; we have all forfeited it a thousand times. Those who are saved have only God to thank, and those who perish have only themselves to thank. We are bound, as God has bound us, to do our utmost to see men and women come to faith, but God is bound no further than He is pleased to bind Himself. He promises that He will receive, and not cast out, those that come to Christ, but the drawing of men and women to Christ is His choice. Did He have mercy on the Gentiles? It was because He wanted to have mercy on them. Were the Jews hardened? It was because it was His will to give them over to their unbelief.

The second objection Paul deals with is this: if God, while He gives grace to some, denies it to others, why does He find fault with those to whom He denies it? If He has rejected the Jews, and hid salvation from their eyes, why does He find fault with them for their blindness? We'll look at the answer tomorrow.

questions
1. Why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
2. Does God owe anyone salvation?

praise pray Ps. 51A:1-6
1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.