

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

20th-25th May 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
20th May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 6:12-14 - Living It Out

notes How in practice does a Christian live a life free from the dominion of sin, and under the dominion of God? This question is answered in verses 12-14. To live a holy life, a believer must remember that his relationship with sin is over, and that it has no power over him. He may, and must, refuse its demands. But to say no is never enough. He must devote all that he is to God. He should be walking in the Spirit, and this will ensure that he does not fulfil the lusts of the flesh (Gal.5:16). You are no longer under law - living a life of trying to escape from sin, where the harder you try the harder you are beaten. By God's sovereign kindness, you have been brought into favour with Him. You are under grace.

We must go through life avoiding the old master. Anything which unnecessarily leads me into confrontation with him is to be abandoned. He is much stronger than any of us think, and will do everything in his power to get us to obey him. But we are still certain to meet him, however hard we try to avoid it. Yet now we have the right and power to refuse his demands - something which we did not have in our unconverted days. We can no longer be compelled to sin. To every sin, which confronts us, however attractive, we may now say no. We must also yield ourselves to God. When all our time is spent in joyfully seeking to please our new Master, we will no longer be easy prey for the old one.

The cross of Christ did not just free us from sin's condemnation, it also broke sin's power over us. When thankfulness for Calvary disappears from our prayers, when the cross ceases to be central in the preaching that we hear, when the wonders of salvation fade even a little from our vision - then will be the time that holiness of living will no longer characterise us.

questions

1. How should we respond to temptation?
2. To whom do we devote our life?

praise pray Ps. 41:7-12

1. Give thanks that you are no longer under the dominion of sin.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
25th May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 7:1-6 - Summary

notes We've taken a lot of time on these verses, but it's very important that we understand what Paul is saying here. To sum up: There is no doubt that a believer sins, but sin is not the characteristic or desire of a genuine Christian. You can only measure what sin is by means of the Law. A true believer must therefore be characterised by Law-keeping. A Christian keeps the Law of God, not as a mere code for which he has no affection, but in the glad obedience of love.

Imagine a single man who lives on his own and decides to hire a housekeeper. When it becomes clear that she does not understand what is expected of her, he places a list of detailed instructions on the kitchen wall. When the housekeeper sees these rules, she resents them, and the more she thinks about them, the more resentful she becomes. Yet she knows she can't do anything about them. So she decides to try and keep them. But this does not lessen her anger and bitterness. Every time she sees the rules she thinks, Who is he to tell me what to do? Imagine that the housekeeper eventually marries this man. Things are now entirely different. Because she has come to love him, she can't do enough for him, and tries to satisfy his slightest whim. Of course, he takes down the list of rules from the kitchen wall. But knowing that these are the things which please him, she continues to do them. What is more, she does them with true enthusiasm and delight. She wants to do these things, because she is so much in love with her husband. When you were unconverted, you resented God's Law. Now that you are converted you seek to obey Him and take pleasure in doing so. This is because you are actually joined to the One who gave the rules, and you serve Him.

questions

1. What should not be the characteristic of the Christian?
2. What should motivate us to obey God?

praise pray Ps. 44:7-12

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.
24th May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 7:1-6 - A New Marriage

notes The moment you died to the Law, you entered into another marriage. The Christian is not in a non-committal limbo, uncontracted to anybody. The moment you died to the Law, you were joined to the Risen One - and this Risen One is the very One who gave the Law and perfectly fulfilled its demands!

This means that you cannot say, I am free, I am not under legal obligation to anybody, for you are married to Christ. You are not free from obligation. You are under a different obligation. Previously you were bound to a legal code which kept you in bondage. Now you are married to a Person who happens to be the Giver and Keeper of that code, and you live in the glad obedience of love. You are not walking through the world without any ties, but are now tied to the risen Son of God, to Him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

Look at verse 5. What was it like when you were joined to your previous partner? In those days you were in the flesh, directed and controlled by sin. However hard you tried to keep God's Law, the sin that was in you stirred you up in such a way that you consistently broke the Law, and constantly headed for death.

But as verse 6 tells us, you are now dead to that which held you captive. You are delivered from that relationship, and married to a new partner. The result is that instead of trying to keep a cold, written code, you are now trying to please a Person who is alive for evermore. You no longer try to live by a mere set of rules, but are joined in glad obedience to the Person who gave those rules and kept them, so that we serve not under the old written code but in the new life of the Spirit.

questions

1. What happens when you die to the Law?
2. Whom should we be trying to please?

praise pray

Ps. 44:1-6

1. Pray that you would have a desire to please Christ.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
21st May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 6:15-23 - Two Masters

notes Nobody is saved by keeping the Ten Commandments, or by anything else that he does. He is saved because God has united him to Jesus Christ. He comes into the possession of all the benefits that Christ has procured for him when God brings him to believe. If nobody is saved by keeping the Law, then what place does the Law have in a Christian's life? This is the issue which Paul now tackles.

Verse 15 basically asks, If indeed we are saved by God's grace, and not by keeping the Law, why should we bother to keep the Law at all? Why not just continue in sin and live as though the Law never existed? Paul's answer is, By no means! He is concerned that this sort of problem should be fully cleared up in the mind of every believer. Paul makes the point that we know who a slave's master is by who he obeys.

Paul tells us that there are two masters, who demand two different kinds of service, and who give two sorts of reward. The first master is described as sin and uncleanness. The second master is described as righteousness and God.

These two masters demand two kinds of service. If sin is your master, you will do those things which are consistent with his nature. You will sin and do acts of uncleanness. He demands that you do wrong and, when you have done it, that you do more wrong (v. 19). He demands that you do shameful things (v.21). The other master's demands are completely different. The God of righteousness ensures that His servants do His revealed will as it is contained in the Scripture (v.17, 22). Those who have this master live a life of holiness (v.19, 22). The two kinds of service could not be more different.

questions

1. What question is Paul seeking to answer?
2. What are the two kinds of service that each master demands?

praise pray

Ps. 42:1-6

1. Give thanks that you serve a new master.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
22nd May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 6:15-23 - Unchanged Christians

notes We're looking at the place of the Law in the life of a Christian. Paul has explained that there are two masters: sin and God. The one master demands that we do what is evil; the other that we do what is good. The two masters pay different sorts of wages. What will be the outcome if you serve the first master? Death! (v.16, 21, 23). In the Bible this does not just mean physical death, but alienation from God and everlasting punishment. What does the other master give? Life! Everlasting life! (v.22-23).

The issue is that one of these masters is your master; one of these services is your service; one of these outcomes is your outcome. If you live in deliberate sin and uncleanness, it is obvious who your master is, and where you are heading. But those who belong to God just do not live like that. Paul has made it absolutely clear why a professing Christian cannot live lawlessly. It would prove, despite his claims to the contrary, that he is not a true Christian at all, but that sin is still his master. It would prove that he is a person who is eternally lost. A true Christian certainly needs to be urged to be more submissive to his new master (v.19). He has many falls and failings, as we shall see. But he does not live ignoring the Law of God.

The proof that you are a true believer does not lie in your words, but in the life that you live. Whoever has a new record in heaven also has a new life here on earth. All professing Christians who have unchanged lives are not Christians at all. Their need is not to be assured that they are God's children no matter how they live or to be told that they need a second blessing. Their need is salvation. They should be directed to the first five chapters of Romans, which explain how a lost sinner may be reconciled to God. They should be urged to repent and to believe the gospel, and told that if they do not, they must certainly and eternally perish.

questions

1. What is the proof that you are a true believer?
2. What wages do the two masters pay?

praise pray Ps. 42:7-11

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.



Thur.
23rd May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die
Romans 5:7

reading Romans 7:1-6 - Dead to the Law

notes A Christian's relationship to the Law should now be clear. A Christian is free from the Law in the sense that he does not need to keep it to be saved. Yet he is not free from the Law, for he needs to keep it to prove that he is saved. In chapter 7:1-6 Paul explains a little more about the Christian's relationship to the Law.

Don't you know, says Paul, that the law, any law, can only make claims upon a person while he is alive? We all know this to be a fact. When we die, our debts die with us. It is very hard to prosecute somebody who is in a cemetery!

Paul asks us to imagine a married couple. They are bound by the law to be man and wife as long as both of them are alive. If one of them becomes a partner to somebody else, then adultery has been committed. When does the law no longer bind them to be man and wife? It is when one of them dies. Death breaks the marriage bond, and a person's relation to the law. It ends the claim that the law has over a person. Verses 1-3 can be put in a single phrase: legal obligation ends with death.

You, as a creature of God, are bound to keep God's Law. But legal obligation ends with death. If you are a believer, you died when Christ died - something we have already learned. He fulfilled all the demands of the Law. You are released from the Law's demands, because you died when Christ died. You have died to the law through the body of Christ, as Paul explains in verse 4. Your marriage relationship to the Law has been dissolved. But although that contract is over, and has been ended by death, another marriage has been immediately contracted. That is what we'll look at tomorrow.

questions

1. What breaks the marriage bond?
2. Who perfectly kept the Law?

praise pray Ps. 43:all

1. Give thanks for Christ's perfect obedience.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.