

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

27th May-1st Jun. 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.
27th May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But God shows
His love for us in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

reading Romans 7:7-13 - Two Effects

notes When Paul came into contact with the Law of God, two things happened to him. The first was that he realised that he was a failure, when measured by God's standards. There is nothing wrong with the Law. But his contact with it brought him to see that there was something wrong with himself. He did not know that there was anything wrong with coveting until then, and so he did not previously realise that he was guilty of it. God's Law showed him that he was a sinner.

Paul also admits that contact with the Law actually stirred him up to do the very things it prohibited. He discovered that he was guilty of coveting, yet the command not to do it stirred him up to covet even more!

Why, then, did God give the rules? God gave His Law so that you might know His will, do it, and live! But, because the Law stirred up sin, the actual effect was that you died. Do not blame this fact on the Law, for it is holy, just, and good (verse 12). Blame your evil and depraved nature.

Now you are out of the Creator's favour, and doomed to die. You would never have been like this if it had not been for the Law. Shall you then go to the Creator and say to Him, 'It's all your fault!' If you had not given the rules, I would not have broken them! No, the rules are holy, just, and good. They are not to blame. It is your own depraved nature, which is so deceitful that it actually took hold of a holy thing and, by it, worked death in you.

All that is the past experience of the Christian. In your unconverted days the Law filled you with resentment, showed you your guilt, and stirred you up to sin even more. There is nothing wrong in the Law. The fault lies in the depraved nature of men and women.

- questions**
1. What were the two effects of the Law?
 2. Who is to blame?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 44:13-19
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.



Sat.
1st June

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But God shows
His love for us in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

reading Romans 8:12-17 - Duties and Privileges

notes It is plain, then, that a true believer cannot live like the unconverted. He owes no allegiance whatever to the old manager. If he obeys him, it will conclusively demonstrate that he never had a new manager, and that he is still under the regime of death. This is what verses 12 and 13a teach.

The way to life is this: you must put to death everything which challenges the managership of the Spirit of God. Sin is to be cut out! Paul tells us bluntly that this sort of painful surgery is essential to life. It is something which the Spirit makes possible for the believer to do. No true believer is at peace with sin. Whoever obeys the commands of God is a child of God (verse 14). The mark of a child of God, then, is that he is engaged in killing off everything which is keeping him from being a holy person. He proves his sonship by means of his consistent determination to have a holy character, like that of his Father.

The relationship which a believer enjoys with God is not that of a servant to his master. It is that of a son to his father. It is not a relationship of fear, but of family. The believer naturally and spontaneously speaks to God as 'Father', and this is because of the work of the Spirit of God within him. All who set themselves to put sin to death and obey can expect to be increasingly and inwardly conscious that they are the children of God.

If they are children, they are heirs, and in line for all their Father's treasures. Far from being factories or servants, believers are heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ. Their union with Christ does not mean that they escape suffering. How could they? Seeing that the world hated Him, it will hate them also. But Christ is now in glory, and they shall be united to Him there, too. The resurrection hope is a certainty.

- questions**
1. What is the mark of a child of God?
 2. What happens as sin is put to death in our life?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 46:7-10
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.
31st May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But God shows
His love for us in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

reading Romans 8:5-11 - The Believer and the Unbeliever

notes The ruling principle in an unconverted person's life is selfishness (verse 5a). In a converted person it is the Spirit of God (verse 5b). Some men set their minds on the things of the flesh. Their master's wages are death (verse 6a). Other men are spiritual - their minds are set upon the things of the Spirit. Their Master's wages are life and peace (verse 6b).

The mind set upon the things of the flesh is at war with God. It is a centre of rebellion against the rightful King. It is impossible for unconverted men to please God. But Paul insists this is not the characteristic of a true believer. They are ruled by the Holy Spirit, sent there by the King.

Each person on earth has one manager or the other. The fixed principle of his heart is either selfishness or godliness. If it is not godliness, you are not a Christian. Every believer has the same Master, and his mind is fixed upon the same great end of godliness. No doubt the Spirit has more sway in some than others, for there is such a thing as growth in grace. But the features we have mentioned are true of every believer, and are not shared by unbelievers at all.

Both the unbeliever and the believer commit sins. But even then the believer is different, and gives signs of spiritual life. Unlike the unconverted man, he is agonised by the Fall, and longs for righteousness.

However, he will not always have to remain in this agonising position. The Spirit of God within him is the same Spirit who raised Christ from the dead. He will do for the believer what He did for Christ. He will raise him from the dead. At that time his agony and frustration will be forever ended. There will be no greater contrast between unbeliever and believer than at the resurrection day, when you will rise to sin no more.

questions

1. What are differences between believers and unbelievers?
2. Will we always struggle with sin?

praise pray Ps. 46:1-6

1. Give thanks that one day we will sin no more.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
28th May

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
But God shows
His love for us in that
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

reading Romans 7:14-25 - Contradiction

notes Paul is now going to talk about the present experience of the believer. The Christian is completely consistent in his heart of hearts. There is only one ruling principle in his desires. It is that he wants to please God, and to keep His Law. Yet he finds that his actions do not tally with his desires. He finds himself doing those things that are against the very nature of a Christian.

It is as if Paul is saying: Everything that I am going to write about is not only typical of me, but of all believers. I think that the Law is spiritual and good. But how I fail! How I fall short of God's standard! I am in this awful position where I cannot be what I want to be. I am a contradiction. This contradiction is between what I am inwardly and what I am outwardly. I am not two people inside. The consistent and unchanging principle within me is that I want to do good. I want to go God's way.

These acts of sin are against my real nature. It's just not the real me. It is the fact that I still have the makeup of Adam that frustrates me so completely. I know what I want to be - there is no difficulty there. It is the performing of it - that is where the trouble lies. In the real me there is complete singleness of purpose. It is just that I am completely frustrated by the surviving sin in my makeup. I determine to do what pleases God, but this desire is frustrated by the evil which still lurks in me. In my heart of hearts I love the Law of God. Yet in the makeup that I have inherited from Adam another law operates, and I end up sometimes doing the very opposite of what was in my mind. There is no hope of my ceasing to be like this as long as I am on this earth. But one day I shall be free, and for this I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. But for the time being my heart is set on doing God's Law, although my outward actions do not always match up to this.

questions

1. What is the contradiction Paul is writing about?
2. Is this true of every Christian?

praise pray Ps. 45:1-6

1. Give thanks that one day we shall be free from the effects of sin.
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
But God shows
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Romans 5:8

reading Romans 7:14-25 - True Christianity

notes When we arrive at this point in Romans, we now have a very clear picture of what a Christian is like. He is not ruled by sin (chapter 6), but he is not free from sin (chapter 7). He knows nothing more of reigning sin (chapter 6), but nonetheless he is agonised by surviving sin (chapter 7). He is not the same as the unconverted. They are at peace with sin, but he is at war with it. They live in sin; he does not (chapter 6), although sin still lives in him (chapter 7). He is characterised by holy desires, but frustrated by sin. This is his present and continuing experience until he no longer has Adam's nature. Until then he cries, O wretched man that I am! and the more holy he becomes, the more he cries it.

A true believer is like a man who was walking down a lane by night, and fell into a puddle of mud. He did not realise how dirty he was until he began to approach a street light. The nearer he came to the light, the more aware of his filth he became, and the harder he tried to get it off. As a Christian gets nearer to God, he becomes increasingly aware of how sinful and polluted he is. He also becomes more and more concerned to do something about it. Sin is an offense to him, and he longs agonisingly for purity. O wretched man that I am! soon becomes his constant cry. It is the cry of a man making progress in holiness. An unholy man is at peace with his sin, and it is not a problem to him.

Romans 7:14-25 is the experience of the normal Christian life. It is a life of intense conflict with sin, not of rest from it. It is a life of agonising dismay at imperfection. It is a life of earnest longing for glory, not of satisfaction at having arrived. Those who have any different daily experience cannot have any assurance that they are Christians at all.

questions
1. How does a Christian view sin in his life?
2. How does an unbeliever view sin in his life?

praise pray
Ps. 45:7-12
1. Pray that sin would increasingly be put to death in your life.
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
But God shows
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Romans 5:8

reading Romans 8:1-4 - The Factory

notes Imagine a factory taken over by a new manager. Different principles now govern the main office, and different instructions come from it. However, the old men and the old machines remain. Although there is a new manager giving the factory a new direction, it takes time because the workers still have the old habits and ways of doing things.

Being in Christ Jesus, you are no longer in a state of condemnation. Paul has told you in chapters 1-5 that you are free from the guilt of sin. Now he is reminding you that you are also free from the power of sin. The tyrant has lost his power over you. The old manager no longer rules.

You do not walk in the flesh, but in the Spirit. One manager has replaced the other. The old corrupt manager urged you to do nothing but sin, and paid you nothing but death. He has gone. The new manager has inaugurated a regime of liberty, and pays you in terms of life.

Paul explains in verse 3 that there was no chance of his living a holy life in his unconverted days. The Law of God could tell him what to do, but could give him no power to do it. But God has changed all that by sending His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. He came into the world specifically to deal with sin. The power of the old manager is destroyed.

Why did God destroy the power of the old manager in your life? Was it so that things could be just the same? No! It was so that things might be forever different. This passage is not teaching that you can have perfect obedience to God in this life. But a Christian's whole principle of life has changed. The new manager has taken over and the whole factory is progressively being changed. You are free from reigning sin, but indwelling sin is still very much a fact. So you are not as wicked as the world, but you are not as righteous as you will be on the resurrection day.

questions
1. Does sin have power over the Christian?
2. Is sin completely gone from our life?

praise pray
Ps. 45:13-17
1. Give thanks that sin no longer has power over us.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.