

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 18th July 2021
Sermon Title: The Disciples Battle Against Sin: thinking differently
Bible Passage: Romans 6:1-14

Recapping the Preach

Read Romans 6:1-14 from several different translations.

- What stands out to you about these passages?
- What questions do you have from this passage?
- Ask one or two people to share their baptism testimony - when and why they were baptised? What did their baptism mean for them? Did anything change after their baptism?

Stu began by recapping Romans 1-4 and highlighted the doctrine of justification (God's act of declaring the sinner not guilty because of their faith in Christ's perfect work of atonement). Yet, even though we have been justified, we still have a sin problem and sinless perfection this side of glory will not be our experience.

- There is a contrast here between our position before God and our situation in a fallen world. Discuss the difference between a believers position before God versus a believers current situation in a fallen world?
- Those who advocate 'sinless perfection' will often point towards Ephesians 4:13, Colossians 1:28 and 4:12 (read these verses from a few translations). What do you think these verses are saying?
- How would answer someone who advocates for sinless perfection?

Stu went on to quote from CH Spurgeon and his view on our Christian experience as being alive in Christ but still having a daily struggle with sin. Take time to read through this quote:

'It was the custom of ancient tyrants when they wish to put a man through the most fearful of punishments to tie a dead body to them, placing the two back to back. And there was the living man with a dead corpse strapped to him, rotting, putrefying, corrupting and this must be with him wherever he went. Now this is what the Christian has to do. He has within him new life. He has the living undying principle which the Spirit has put within him. But he feels that everyday he has to drag about with him this dead body, this body of death, a thing so loathsome as hideous as abominable to his new life as a dead stinking carcass would be to a living man'

- Is this an accurate description of our condition?
- What do you agree with / disagree with from the above?

Our response to ongoing sin in our lives is to enter into the battle against it (*'True Christianity is a struggle, a fight, a warfare...where there is grace there will be a conflict. The believer is a soldier. There is no holiness without warfare. Saved souls will always be found to have fought (or be fighting) a fight'*). This battle begins in the mind and we need to think differently. Drawing from the imagery of baptism that Paul uses here, Stu mentioned three areas we need to think differently about.

- vs.2 How can Christians be dead to sin but still have a daily struggle with sin?
- vs.6 What do you think it means that the 'body of sin might be done away with'?
- vs.14 What does it mean that sin will no longer be our master?
- Stu mentioned that the truths we need to think about in our battle against sin are: sin's penalty is cancelled, sin's power is broken and sin's mastery is removed. How does this help us in the battle against sin?

- What is the significance of counting ourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ (vs.11)?

Stu closed by applying the passage to our priorities. We are a place to grow in loving Jesus and encountering the Presence of God, a place to grow in living for Jesus and following Jesus and a place to grow, making space to lead people to Jesus.

- How does our battle against sin help us grow in these three areas (worship, discipleship and mission)?
- What is your greatest weapon in your battle against sin?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Make Romans 12:1-2 a prayer for one another.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>