

Sunday, September 11, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: Renewing Our Inner Man

Series: Renewing & Enriching Our Inner Man

Text: Romans 8:3 – 8,

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to embrace the truth that on receiving Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior they have become a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Introduction:

~ Romans 8:3 – 8, “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, (4) in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. (7) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

~ This portion of Scripture is LOADED with divine information and practical direction.

~ One of the many divine truths that took me considerable time to digest was the Biblical insight ‘that I am was a sinner NOT because I sin; rather that I was a sinner and therefore I sinned. *Being a sinner is a state of being and not an action or thought. But now by a declaration of God, based on our faith in Christ Jesus, we are now a new creation in Christ Jesus. This does not mean that we do not sin, or have a license to sin, but we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ.*

1. Painful Reality – Death:

~ Ephesians 2:1 – 3, “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”

~ As I understand, primarily through Dr. Neil Anderson, DEATH indicates SEPARATION.

~ Romans 3:1 – 31; vs. 10, 11, 12; compare Romans 1:16 & 17

~ Isaiah 59:1 – 2, “Behold, the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; (2) but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.”

~ 1 Corinthians 2:14, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

~ John 6:60 – 63, “When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying: who can listen to it?” (61) But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? (62) Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? (63) It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.””

2. Priority Decision – Repentance:

~ Matthew 4:17, “From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.””

~ Acts 2:38 – 39, “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (39) For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 9 and 10, “remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Verses 9 & 10, “For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

~ I have come to understand that I needed to repent of my failures (sin and trespasses) but also from the irresistible urge to trust my intellect to understand God (Mark 9:17 - 24).

~ J. B. Phillips wrote a book entitled ‘Your God is Too Small: A Guide for Believers and Skeptics Alike’; confronted me with the question – can my finite mind comprehend an infinite God?

~ Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek have written a book entitled ‘I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist.’ How can NOTHING produce something? How can NONLIFE produce life? Compare with Dr. James Tour.

3. Powerful Remedy – Christ in You:

~ John 3:3 & 6, “Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Verse 6, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

~ John 1:12 & 13, “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

~ 1 Peter 1:23, “since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.”

~ Colossians 1:27, “To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

Conclusion: Communion

Hymn – Just as I Am Without One Plea