

Community Group Questions for the week of Feb. 25, 2018

Romans 5: 12-21: "The Claim & Two Contrasts": Pastor Nate Wright

Last week, we were encouraged, through one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible, Romans 5:1-11. This week Paul transitions his teaching to one of the most difficult passages, as he writes to the believers in Rome, Romans 5:12-21. The aim of this passage is to reveal to the reader the illustrious fact that God's grace is immeasurably superior to man's sin.

- I. Romans 5:12-14: The Claim: "Humanity is in dire straits." Pastor Nate taught us three points in regards to sinful man's bleak outlook.
 - A. Sin has entered humanity through the disobedience of one man, Adam, and forever transformed humanity's inner nature for all posterity.
 - Why is the belief of the virgin birth foundational to Christianity?
 - B. Sin separates us from God and causes death in three ways:
 1. Physically
 2. Spiritually
 3. Eternally
 - C. Because of sin, death is universal.
 - An unbeliever lives without hope of physically, spiritually or eternally uniting with God. How does your unbelieving friend, co-worker or family member respond to their current life situations, struggles, dreams? How does their hopeless response cause strife or struggle in your workplace, home life or relationships? How does that motivate you to urgently share the gospel?
- II. Romans 5:15-19: The 1st Contrast
 - A. Paul transitions to good news! Jesus Christ's work on the cross obliterated sin. One of the results of this is power. The obedience of Jesus Christ results in power and grace that immeasurably surpasses the disobedience of Adam. Pastor Nate taught us that the world tries to free itself from the enslavement of sin in two ways: moralism and giving up ("This is my lot in life.")
 - Before you became a believer, how did you see this at work in your life?
 - Do these tempt you now?
 - B. Another result of Jesus Christ's work on the cross is grace. When we became believers in Christ, we received His righteousness instantaneously and permanently, leaving us both sobered and stunned.
 - Sobered response: Pastor Nate asked, "How much must God hate sin, that He would send all humanity to hell due to one sin from one man? God never takes sin lightly." What sin are you taking lightly?

- Stunning response: Pastor Nate also asked, (knowing that) “God hates sin so much, how much must God love humanity, that He sent His Son to the cross for our sin?” What are you willing to change this week in your daily life to grow in your obedience to Christ, and thankfulness to Him, for His death on the cross for your sin?
 - We were challenged to not diminish the wrath of God. “When we see the wrath of God, we will see how great God’s love for us is.” How will remembering this impact how you share the gospel this week?
- C. Jesus Christ’s death on the cross, results in life for His believers.
- “Sin never delivers its desired results.” How do you see this lived out in lives around you?
 - “Obedience to God always delivers desired results...glory to God.” Through your current circumstances, how would you like to live that out, even more fully, this week?

III. The 2nd Contrast

Paul reminds us the Law does not save people. Man says, “I got this”, and Paul said, “You don’t got this and never will.” Unbelievers see the law and they learn what sin is, and they are stimulated to break the law. Believers see the law, and they are stimulated to obey it. The Law cannot save us, it only shows our need to be saved.

- Are you finding your hope in the person and work of Jesus Christ or in the hope of worldly graces: a day off, a good medical report, a stress free day, an obedient child?
- How does your mindset change as you reflect on the truth that our only hope is in the person and work of Jesus Christ?

IV. Conclusion

Pastor Nate asked two questions of us:

- Who are you bringing the good news of Jesus to?
- Who are you bringing to hear the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ?