**JESUS IS = JESUS IS OUR FORGIVENESS 4/10/22**

Last week talked about how Jesus is our Righteousness – how He gives us His righteousness so He sees us as loved and accepted

Today: Talking about Jesus is our Forgiveness = Dealing with our sin issue

What do we do with our sin? Often either try to cover it up, live in shame and guilt

Illustration: Our old dog with a bread bag – tried to hide his sin, but always looked guilty

How through His death on the Cross He grants forgiveness for our sins: past present and future. Maybe have heard many times about God’s forgiveness, but all take it for granted to some degree – I know I do! Today step back and hear with fresh ears and fresh faith and stand in awe at what Christ has done for you. If never heard, learning about greatest gift ever today!

Big Idea: We are desperate for the forgiveness for our sins only available through Jesus Christ.

Read Colossians 2:13-15

**PRAY**

**WE ARE DESPERATE FOR FORGIVENESS**

Have you ever been desperate for anything? Truly? Like water, air, healing, a miracle?

* Asthma – desperate for air, oxygen tent
* What makes us desperate? Recognizing a need that is pre-eminent, that consumes us and demands our attention
* State before Christ’s forgiveness truly a pre-eminent need that demands our attention
  + We were dead in our trespasses = under God’s judgment
  + With a record of debt against us beyond our ability to reconcile
  + Romans 6:23 = for the wages of sin is death, and we have all sinned (3:23)
  + We were, and are without Christ, literally doomed people destined for eternity in hell = truly a desperate situation!

Main reason we don’t appreciate forgiveness Christ offers is don’t realize state we were in or are in without Him, and we fail to recognize the true ugliness of our own sin

Culture today says that living for our own pleasures isn’t bad, and God’s rules are too strict and legalistic and demanding = sin is minimized and holiness is downgraded

Wages of sin is death = sin is contrary to God’s very nature, an affront to Him and the very opposite of our created purpose to bring Him glory. Sin is a rejection of Him as our loving Creator, Father and Lord = serious offense worthy of serious consequences

Proverbs 26:11 = as dog returns to vomit = sin is like vomit

Zech. 3:1-3 = filthy garments = literally covered in poop

Some say “But I am basically a good person, do a lot of good stuff, that should get me in!”

Illustration of coffee fresh and hot and good – with one drop of sewage water in it

* Would you drink it? Of course not! Has sewage in it!
* Yet try to offer up that to God with our lives every day! But it isn’t just one drop!
  + Must see how gross and ugly our sin is to God, and should be to us!
* God’s demand is 100% purity, the absence of sin

Never take sin for granted or minimize it = then sin will consume us

Must recognize ugliness of sin for what it is = realize our desperate need for forgiveness!

**FORGIVENESS IS ALL AND ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

So we have a BIG problem – sin in each of us that demands God’s judgment and death

Only when we recognize the size of our problem will we more fully understand the amazing miracle that Christ gives us through His forgiveness

Romans 4:1-8 = The great gift!

* As talked about last week, cannot be justified, or saved, by our works – our righteousness like filthy rags before an all holy and perfect God
* No human effort we could ever boast about before holy God
* Alternative: believe in Him who justifies the ungodly
* In faith we are blessed as our sins are forgiven, are covered = made ALIVE

How can just God ignore sin and say its forgiven? = Because penalty already paid!

2 Cor. 5:21 = The great exchange

* Christ took our sin upon Himself, and suffered the judgement and death that we deserved for it = drank God’s cup of wrath for our sins
* Powerpoint picture = that should be us up there! Not our holy and beautiful Savior!
* In exchange He granted to us His righteousness through the forgiveness of our sins
* Free from penalty of sin and guilt of sin instantly when thru faith make that exchange
* Repentance = means of exchange = we confess our sin and receive His forgiveness
  + Literally, a change of mind or heart, taking a different direction
* Thru repentance forgiveness then a fact = not based on how we feel, but a legal exchange, “canceled the record of debt”
  + If you have believed in Jesus and repented of sins, you ARE forgiven
* Has nothing to do with what we have done, no matter how bad – PRAISE GOD!
  + Romans 5:20-21 = where sin increased, grace increased more = God’s forgiveness through Jesus is ALWAYS enough
* Romans 8:1-4 = No more shame/guilt for repentant Christians = made alive from death!
  + God’s righteous requirement of law met in Jesus’ taking on our sin in death
  + Forgiveness not about what we have done but what Jesus did = ours by faith

Zech. 3:1-5 = Beautiful picture of this exchange

* Joshua accused in courtroom scene with God and Satan
* Accusations against Joshua true, deserved judgment for his sins
  + Clothed in filthy garments – literally covered in poop (POWERPOINT PICTURE)
  + Opposite of what high priest’s garments were supposed to look like
  + God steps in and offers unconditional forgiveness, brand plucked from fire
  + Changes out filthy clothes for pure vestments, turban = “HOLY TO THE LORD”
  + What did Joshua do in this scene? Nothing, could do nothing, was gift of God
* Picture of forgiveness offered to us through Jesus Christ, which we cannot earn but is freely given to us through faith in Christ

**CONCLUSION – SO WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN TO ME?**

Through Christ’s death on the cross we have available to us forgiveness of all sins, past present and future

* John 3:16-17 = Jesus did not come to judge, but to save the world, grant life
  + Through forgiveness offered to whomever would believe in Him
* But must appropriate this forgiveness through faith leading to repentance
* Forgiveness for past sins when come to salvation in Christ through acknowledging our sinfulness and our desperate need for forgiveness, faith that He did take our sins upon Himself, and that He did die on our behalf and rise again
  + Simple as ABC = make that exchange today if never have, dead to alive!
* Forgiveness for present sins comes as we walk out the gift of true repentance and receive His forgiveness for our daily sins – the Lord’s Prayer
  + Sin daily so should practice daily repentance = daily exchange
    - Part of normal Christian life we should be living
  + 1 John 5:5-10 = cannot claim to be Christian and walk in unrepentant sin
  + Conviction is a gift from God, as is repentance, as they are gifts that God gives us through His Holy Spirit to bring us to exchange = receive forgiveness
  + Practice it daily and experience daily His forgiveness
* Worship Him in the knowledge that He has covered all of our future sins, so that as we continue to turn to Him in repentance we can continually receive His forgiveness

**MOMENT TO PONDER**

Are you walking in daily repentance? – daily asking forgiveness for our sins and letting Him take them and grant you His forgiveness and righteousness

Are you taking the cross of Christ for granted and not fully appreciating and walking in wonder of the forgiveness that He has secured for you? Not taking sin seriously

**CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM & PRAYER TEAM**

**COMMUNION**

Remembering the penalty that Christ paid to grant us the gift of forgiveness

Blood Shed = Gouged with lashes to point of death, hands and ankles pierced with nails

Body Broken = Body beaten to a pulp by soldiers

All the heavy penalty of judgment and death that we deserved for our sins – ugliness of sin

Forgiveness is never free, and we should never take it for granted = Powerpoint picture

Romans 2:4 = God’s kindness meant to lead us to repentance

Stand in awe of His love for us shown in all He endured to enable our forgiveness

* Never take forgiveness He gives us for granted
* Let that awe of His love draw us to love Him and to follow Him faithfully

**Life Group Questions:**

JESUS IS . . . OUR FORGIVENESS

Colossians 2:13-15

ICEBREAKER: Name a time in your life when you were truly desperate for something.

Head:

* What does it mean that we are dead in our trespasses?
* What does it mean that we are desperate for God’s forgiveness?
* Why isn’t it good enough to be a “mostly good” person?
* What is the great exchange that we talked about? How is it made possible?
* What is repentance?

Heart:

* When did you first recognize the big problem of sin in your own life? How did that lead you to repentance?
* Have you ever tried to cover up your sin? How do you cover your sins/guilt?
* What does it mean to you that Jesus paid the penalty for YOUR sin?
* Is it hard for you to receive God’s forgiveness when you sin?

Hands:

* Are you practicing daily repentance? What are the benefits of it?
* Do you think you take the cross of Christ and His forgiveness for granted? How can you avoid doing this?