

Lent 2017, Sermon Series: Principles of the Reformation

5 March 2017 - Study Notes: 1. INTRODUCTION: "The means of Salvation"

Jesus is tempted but is obedient to the Father : We are tempted and fail.

How can we be reconciled to God – when we are tempted and fail?

- Under Old Covenant, God provided Laws which Hebrews followed to keep them reconciled, or at-one, with God.
- Means of "atonement" by sacrifice of an animal
 - "under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." Heb. 9:22
- In New Covenant, Jesus died once for all, for our sins. See 1 Cor. 15:3-4
 - On Cross: sin defeated, idols over-turned, forgiveness granted, reconciliation assured, salvation guaranteed
- How can I move from failure to holiness?
 - Not in my strength. We are not worthy, but Jesus stands for us and we are welcomed back home to the Father.
 - Believe: acceptance of Jesus as Lord and Saviour
 - Belong: involvement as member of the body of Christ
 - Behave: live differently as a child of God.

Tools for salvation: it's these alone!

- Faith, Grace, Scripture, Christ, Glory to God

Pathway from sinner to saint:

- Called, Regenerated, Justified, Sanctified, Glorified
 - Called: instant response or turn a deaf ear? Cradle Christian? Still

needed a personal response.

- *Regenerated*: new life through birth in the spirit following acceptance of Jesus as Lord
- *Justified*: put in a right standing before God and in relationship with him. Justified by faith, not works
- *Sanctified*: become more like Christ in our behaviour and relationships
- *Glorified*: Being united with Christ on his return, in our resurrection bodies [1 Cor. 15]

Death through Adam, life through Christ

- Adam with his sin brought us to our condemnation
- Jesus with his righteousness brought us justification

References to explore:

Hebrews 9:22; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Mark 10:45; 1 Cor. 6:11; Rom 3:21-4:25

Questions

1. In the early chapters of Romans, Paul explores the “righteousness from God which comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” [3:22]. Do you believe that God has made you right with him? Or do you think you must do something to earn being justified?
2. Do the five “solas” form the basis of doctrine for your faith? Are there any with which you have difficulty and you will be looking forward to discovering more about what they mean today?
3. Can you remember when you heard the gospel and responded to it? Could you summarize the elements of the gospel message to share?
4. As a Christian we have been made righteous by God. How does the process of sanctification (continually being made holy, in Christ’s image) impact your life-style and relationships?