

# ***A Follow Up Bible Study***

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons from the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

Peace Ev. Lutheran Church

July 15, 2020

## **Warm Up**

**Share** - What do you know about the day you were baptized?

Did you have sponsors (Godparents)? If so, what role did they have in your walk with Jesus?

## **1. Sermon for July 12, 2020**

**Text: Romans 6:1b-11**

*Theme: Plunge into your baptism for the new life.*

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

## **2. Let's take a quick look at the context to understand why Paul asks, "*Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase?*"**

*5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God. ...*

*<sup>18</sup> So then, just as one trespass led to a verdict of condemnation for all people, so also one righteous verdict led to life-giving justification for all people. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.*

*<sup>20</sup> The law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace overflowed much more, <sup>21</sup> so that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace would reign through righteousness, resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**6** *What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase?*

Why did Paul pose the question, "***Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase?***"

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3. How ironic! This letter was sent to the church in Rome. When the Lutherans taught that grace was a free gift from God, given unconditionally to all sinners based on Jesus' accomplished works, the Roman Church said it would lead to debauchery. In fact they spread lies among the people in their territories that debauchery of the worst kind had overtaken the Lutheran cities and towns. Why did they expect this? Because the only motivation they knew for avoiding immorality was the threats of the Law and the punishment of hell. Law can and does curb external acts of wickedness, but it never changes the heart or motivates willing obedience. **Share** ways the gospel motivates us to seek righteousness and avoid sin.

4. We've often noted that *eternal death* doesn't make sense if *death* means stop functioning and experiencing. We've also noted that if *death* means *dropping over dead*, God's warning, "*on the day that you eat from it, you will certainly die*" didn't happen. Such a definition of death doesn't fit the Bible's use of the word *death*. *Death is to be separated*. Especially *to be separated from God and his blessings*.

With that understanding of *death*, **explain** what Paul is saying when he wrote: ***We died to sin***. *How can we go on living in it any longer?*

5. Paul reveals what God worked behind the scenes when we are baptized into Christ. We could see the water and wet head. We could hear the words *baptize you in the name....* But this is what God did to you and for you.

*...do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death,...*

Some claim this is figurative language. **Point out** how the words don't allow that interpretation.

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*<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.*

Paul also use *likeness* in Philippians 2:

*When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man...*

We know from the New Testament that Jesus was fully human. What is Paul saying by using the terms *likeness* and *like* in Philippians 2?

What's the difference between Jesus' death on the cross and our death with Jesus on the cross?

Which death of Jesus is Paul speaking about? The hours when Jesus was separated from the Father, experiencing hell, paying for our sins? Or when Jesus breathed his last and gave up his spirit?

What's the difference between Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection with Jesus?

6. Compare the proclaimed purpose of these gospel messages.

**A:** *Jesus died on the cross, fully paying for all the sins of every human being. Then he rose to prove that death is defeated. He did this **so that** all who believe he did this for them will go to heaven when they die.*

**B:** *Jesus died on the cross, fully paying for all the sins of every human being. Then he rose to prove that death is defeated. He did this **so that** those who are united with him through faith would be set free from slavery to sin - set free to live a new life with God - in this life, in heaven after this life, and in the new sin free creation after the Resurrection.*

**Compare** and highlight the strengths and weaknesses of A & B.

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7. Paul reminds us what God did to each of us and for each of us at our individual baptisms. He reminds us what God set out to do and achieve, i.e. God's purpose for baptizing us. Those remain history and facts unless we also see ourselves as God sees us and share God's objective and purpose. That leads Paul to encourage us:

*<sup>10</sup> For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God.*

*<sup>11</sup> In the same way also **consider yourselves** dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

What does it mean to **consider yourselves** dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus? What practices or tools have you found helpful to face each day with this perspective?

## **First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9**

8. This text reminds us that *people-pleasing phony preachers/prophets* have long found an audience *for a time*. It also reminds us of the nature of joining the popular and letting the crowd be *discerning* for us. Paul brings this up when he warned Timothy, "*For there will come a time when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, because they have itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in line with their own desires.*" Sometimes the false prophet creates the crowd. Other times the people create their own false prophets.

America has come to a time where it is not consider polite to speak about *false prophets*. That in and of itself is the message of the Master Deceiver and his servants.

The Living God is known through his words. His children have come to know him by his words and trust only his word as reliable truth. His truth saves. Anything that runs contrary to his truth is designed to separate people from the Living God. The Theology of the Word is totally linked to and inseparable from the Theology of Salvation.

Jeremiah reminds us of the standard that reveals if a prophet/preacher is speaking for God. What is that standard?

The Lord certifies Jeremiah as his genuine spokesman later in this chapter.

*<sup>15</sup> Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen, Hananiah! The LORD has not sent you, yet you are making this people trust in a lie. <sup>16</sup> Therefore this is what the LORD says. Watch, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you will die, because you have preached rebellion against the LORD."*

*<sup>17</sup> In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.*

This was spoken in the fourth month of that year. (Jer. 28:1)

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## **Second Lesson: Matthew 10:34-42**

9. We live in an area where pacifism remains popular. The Quakers, Brethren, Mennonites, Amish, and Moravians have been joined by the modern antiwar movements.

What kind of Peace did Jesus come to bring - as sung by the Christmas' angels?

Jesus says here that *he came to bring... a sword*. What does he refer to? What doesn't it mean? What does it mean?

Why do people, even family members, turn on those who follow Jesus?

*Note: daughter-in-laws and mother-in-laws in Bible times were close, part of the family.*

10. Explain: <sup>38</sup> *Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* <sup>39</sup> *Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

11. Many overlook the significance of 40-42. How can you show this care and put this love in action if you are not in a community of believers. The church is not merely invisible or conceptual. It's a reality. If you are called out of this world to Jesus, you are gathered to him and his people. **Think about this. Discuss it.**

12. What is meant by a *reward*. I didn't think we could earn anything good for our *good works*.