

THE WORK WE CAN'T DO

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Inside Out

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God Saves Sinners through Faith in Jesus



SERMON SUMMARY

In There is a lot we can do to grow as individuals and a community. But what about the stuff we can't do? Scripture reveals to us that we are radically corrupted by sin, and our choice of self-rulership over the rightful lordship of God has brought guilt, shame and death into all creation. How can we be made right before God if there's nothing we can do to wipe out the evil in our hearts? God, out of His great love for us, has revealed His plan to bring salvation to humanity and to demonstrate His righteousness over all things. God offers Jesus, His begotten Son, as a ransom to atone for the sin humanity has committed – revealing Himself as both merciful and just. Because Jesus is the perfect sacrifice, his death and resurrection are sufficient to deliver new life to humanity. This new life is received by believing faith rather than any sort of human achievement or advantage; it's truly a gift of grace. We live by faith when we submit ourselves to Jesus' lordship, at once allowing him to deal with the sin in our lives as we endeavour to obey Him and follow His will.

- What are some of the cultural challenges of communicating Christianity's doctrine of sin? How is this teaching actually helpful or even encouraging to someone who is otherwise non-faithed?
 - Refer to Psalm 51, 1 Kings 8:46-53, 1 John 1:5-10, Romans 1:18-3:20, Romans 5:1-19 for some scriptures regarding sin.
- Why do you think Paul's focus is on the 'righteousness of God' in the Romans 3 passage?
- Why is it crucial to Paul's argument that grace is a gift received through faith?
- How might faith in Jesus function on a day-to-day basis? How might we explain to someone the way in which God's saving work interacts with our faith?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

PRACTICAL APPLICATION & READING REFLECTIONS

Recognizing that Jesus has made a way for us to deal with the sin in our lives, how might we respond in faith? We suggest a process of self-examination, confession of sin, adoration of things that are good, and then an imitation of the ways of God outlined in Scripture.

Sunday: Romans 3:9–26; Ps. 14, 53; *(For All Have Sinned)*
Monday: Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12-14 *(Where the Struggle Began)*
Tuesday: Mark 7:14-23; Jer. 17:9-10 *(The Condition of the Heart)*
Wednesday: Ps. 51:1-12; Deut. 30:6; Jer. 32:38-41; Ez. 36:26-27 *(The New Heart)*
Thursday: Eph. 2:1-10; Is. 6:5-7; Col. 2:13-15 *(God's Redeeming Work)*
Friday: Is. 53:4-12; Matt. 9:2-8; 1 Cor. 15:55-57; 1 John 2:1-2 *(Christ our Hope from sin)*
Saturday: 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Zech. 3:1-5; Luke 15:18-24 *(Being Clothed Anew)*