

Sermon Notes

Lessons Learned: Part 6

July 10th11th, 2021

- **This Week: Baptism – A Declaration of Faith**
- Water Baptism is a huge part of the Christian faith!
 - o John the Baptist prepared the way. Jesus was baptized by John. **Matthew 3:11-17**
 - o Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize. **Matthew 28:18-20**
 - o Peter proclaimed this as well at Pentecost. **Acts 2:37-39**
 - o Saul, who became Paul the Apostle, was baptized at conversion. **Acts 9:17-19**
 - o And Paul the Apostle describes baptism in Romans 6...but first...
- Grace vs Works.
 - o Is baptism something we must do as part of earning our salvation??
 - o Or, should we skip it altogether because we are saved by grace through faith and not by works??
- When I first got saved the “grace vs works” debate seemed really strange to me.
 - o I thought, “If God is real, He loves us, we can know Him and have a relationship with Him now and forever, AND He has a Kingdom purpose for us now, why wouldn’t we just dive in???”
 - o Both the works focused people and the grace without works people were very confusing to me.
- Here’s my best shot on making sense of this strange dynamic:
 - o Set Up: It’s like the arrogance vs hating yourself thing.
 - People bounce between the two, but these are just different sides of the same coin.
 - You have to give up your life so that it isn’t about you anymore! Then you find yourself!!
 - o Issue: The problem with grace vs works is that people are thinking about themselves and whether or not they are good enough instead of simply loving God and walking by faith.
 - Let’s do a sports analogy. I’m a Vikings fan. I watch games. I cheer for the team. Why?
 - “For the love of the game.” Not to prove my worth as a fan. That would be weird.
 - As long as I’m thinking about proving my worth as a fan rather than just enjoying football it is weird. Either hyper works (legalism) or opposite reaction of cheap grace (wanting to be a Vikings fan without having to be an actual Vikings fan).
 - o These are just different sides of the same coin: self-justification.
 - o Instead, let’s believe the Gospel, get over ourselves, and simply love God and walk by faith!!
 - Daily Devotions online. Check out **John 14:15-27. (Emphasis v15, 21, 23)**
 - Why do we obey Jesus? “For the love of the game...I mean for the love of God!!!”
 - And we are not just fans of the Lord. We are players on the field!!
 - Back to Baptism. The Apostle Paul describes baptism in **Romans 6:1-15**.
 - o You can see that he is dealing with a self-justification mentality!! (cheap grace reaction to legalism)
 - o **Romans 6:4-5** is the main concept.
 - The old has gone, the new has come. It’s time to live for Christ. Live a new life.
 - This is what Christ paid for on the cross. **Romans 6:23**
 - I was baptized in water in my mid 20s. Pastor Kent and Pastor Rick were there. Kent said...
 - o So, is it time for you to be baptized in water because you love Jesus?
 - o Is it time for you to make a public declaration of your faith? I’ll see you tonight (July 11) at 5:30!!
 - o Or, maybe it’s time for you to come to faith in the first place.
 - Have you been stuck in a self-justifying mentality and missed the love of God?
 - Have you strayed from the God you love?
 - Are you just starting to see that there is a God in Heaven who loves you, that you can live a new life and there is everlasting life for you? Today is your day to come to faith, pledging your life to Jesus.
 - Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.