

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

4/16/17

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:14-22, 50-58

Title: Easter

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Tim spoke this morning about the problem of death and the need we all have for a greater hope that reaches beyond the temporal, and into the eternal. Without an eternal hope, our entire lives are lived in vain, decaying and perishing, simply getting as much in as possible before death. The hope of the gospel not only assures us that this life is not the end, but it also gives us an eternal perspective where we realize that we have access to the infinite wealth and hope of God. Jesus' death on our behalf cleansed our souls, removing the sin and punishment we earned, but it is his resurrection that gives us true hope that we too can be raised to everlasting life with Him and we have access to his infinite power and love for eternity.

Reflection Questions:

1. *Vanity or Purpose, Despair or Hope? - If everything we do is perishing, without the gospel we can either get busy and avoid the thought of death, or we can embrace it in hopelessness ("eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.")*
 - **What was your first collision with the desperate need for hope? What have you faced in life that caused you to need a hope in something that's greater than this world?**
2. *(Tim said that sin is like grease on our hands that had formed a bond with our skin, and the only way to get it off was for the soap to form a greater bond with the grease. Jesus' work to cleanse us was like a powerful soap, that formed a more powerful bond with our sin that allowed it to be removed.)*
 - **What sin or brokenness in your life has felt like an oil or grease that you'll never be able to get off? What is it like to know Jesus has cleaned it from you?**
3. *(Tim compared this temporal life with the gestation of a child; that it is both fleeting in comparison with eternity, and we can't even fathom what's to come when we enter the new life.)*
 - **What if this whole life is just a gestation period, preparing you for eternal life? What changes? What might God be preparing you for? How does that change how you live?**

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A.C.T.S.

(Take time to list 1 or 2 things in each of these areas, then spend some time in prayer, confession and worship as a group. Begin with the questions to the group, and use the prayer items from the worship folder as suggestions if you're having a hard time coming up with answers.)

1. ADORATION

What draws you to Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions?

Worship the LORD, the Great I AM, that He is the Giver of Life and that He cannot be thwarted. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that by Jesus' resurrection He has guaranteed His people hope by the defeat of all evil!

2. CONFESSION

How has this sermon brought to mind sin that you need to Confess and Repent of or ways in which you are finite and limited?

How have you lived vainly investing in this world, and (passively) doubting the Lord's worth? Confess your pride and unbelief to Jesus, asking him to forgive you and free you from bondage to death.

3. THANKSGIVING

What has drawn you to thank Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)?

Give thanks to Jesus for His power to defeat evil, specifically dying to remove your guilt and raised to heal death and destruction. Thank Him for His victory, and for sharing it with all who trust Him.

4. SUPPLICATION

In what particular ways do you need Holy Spirit to transform you?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 & 5:5-7. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow your experience of hope because of all that he guarantees to you. Pray for greater hope because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Prepare for Gospel Community:

How has God impacted you the most through this sermon?

Who do you know that is in desperate need of hope? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them to see Jesus' victory over death and evil (and help you to communicate it well.)