



## Midweek at Renewal | Union With Christ

### Session 4: The Person of Jesus

#### I. Announcements

- A. Offering — Giving station in back
- B. Renewal Night Of Worship - This Fri, Sep 9 at 7pm. The Robinson Gallery Downtown.
- C. Raising Up Conference, Oct 22 - featuring Tim Holler, topic- Emotionally Healthy Parenting. \$15 per person, which includes event costs & Mrs Pat's fried chicken lunch (adults only). RSVP for childcare. Register online or at the Info Center.
- D. Baptism Meeting - For those who have signed up or are interested in getting baptized, there will be a brief, but mandatory, meeting this Sunday, Sep 11 following service.
- E. Preaching and Teaching Cohort — Porterbrook

#### II. Introduction: I must have the conviction that I must change.

- A. Yet I've been disappointed by unfulfilled promises of change if I follow Jesus:
  - 1. Romans 12:1-2: Be transformed
  - 2. Ezekiel 36:26: A new heart
  - 3. 1 Corinthians 2:16: A new mind
  - 4. Philipians 2:15: We can shine like stars in this world
- B. If you lack hope, tonight is for you.

#### III. Two Approaches to Change

- A. Extravagant Grace: “Just believe”
  - 1. Luke 15 — Prodigal Son: *“But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him”* (Luke 15:20).
  - 2. My life-saving discovery of grace

- a) Romans 3 — “[10] None is righteous, no, not one; [11] no one understands; no one seeks for God. **FROM PSALM 14 & 53** [12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”...[19] Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. [20] For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. **THE LAW DOESN’T GIVE US THE POWER TO OVERCOME SIN, BUT TO SEE HOW EXCEEDINGLY SINFUL WE ARE.** [21] But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—[22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. **RIGHTEOUS STANDING ACHIEVED BY JESUS AND RECEIVED BY DEPENDING ON HIM** For there is no distinction: [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24] and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. [26] It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. [27] Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith.” **NO BOASTING IN OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS** [4:1] What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? [2] For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. [3] For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” [4] Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. [5] And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, [6] just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from

*works: [7] “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; [8] blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”* FROM PSALM 32 — A BLESSING PRONOUNCED ON ALL WHO TRUST IN JESUS

3. Why am I still sinning? Why am I not studying God’s word or praying more?
- B. Radical Discipleship: “Just obey”
1. John 14:15: *“If you love me you will keep my commandments.”*
  2. Jeremiah 6:14: *“They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace.’ when there is no peace.”* (Are we lightly healing people?)
  3. Ezekiel 16:49: *“Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had pride, excess of food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and needy.”* (Are we presuming on the grace of God?)
  4. Matthew 7:21: *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”*
  5. Matthew 28:18-20: *“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”*
  6. *“In an effort to relieve overly tender consciences that still felt condemned (because they didn’t fully trust in the finished work of Christ), was I making the too comfortable rest secure in their apathy when what they most needed was to be jolted awake just as Bonhoeffer had jolted me.” — Rankin Wilbourne*

#### IV. A Framework to Hold These Two Approaches Together

- A. Grace and obedience meet in the Person of Jesus.
- B. “...becoming a Christian means more than believing Christ did certain things for you long ago. It means that Christ joins his life to yours in such an intimate

and comprehensive way that the prevailing metaphor for this union in the Bible is marriage (Ephesians 5:32).” — Rankin Wilbourne

C. “Just believe” and “Just obey” leave us focusing the wrong person: ourselves.

D. Abide in the Person of Jesus.

**V. Lindsay — Battling Sin In Our Union With Christ**

A. Our biggest battle with sin is getting ourselves to the battlefield.

B. [Lindsey’s slide from The Jesus Storybook Bible]