

Theme: To be part of God's people I must know how great my sin is, how God has delivered me from my sin and misery through Christ, and how I can show my gratitude to God for delivering me.

I. Intro – Difficulty of Teaching

- A. Hard to summarize accurately
- B. Makes catechism difficult
- C. What to include, what to stress
- D. How to make it memorable
- E. Like Heidelberg structure - guilt, grace, gratitude
- F. We adopted this structure - Q15, sections

II. Guilt: Our Sin Before God

- A. What we mean by guilt
 - 1. Objective guilt - not subjective feelings
 - 2. Subjective not always reliable!
- B. Our pitiful state - sinful before a holy God
 - 1. Dead - in transgression and sin (v1-3)
 - 2. Ruled by Satan and world (v2)
 - 3. By nature objects of wrath (v3)
 - 4. Romans 3:10-12; 19-20
- C. The bad news - leads to Good News!
 - 1. We must begin by understanding our guilt

- 2. Without this, there is no good news!
- 3. Q15 - I must know how great my sin is!

III. Grace - God Has Delivered Us Through Christ

- A. What we mean by grace - unmerited favor
 - 1. Not just kind of nice - totally unmerited by us
 - 2. This is something beyond expectation!
- B. Our deliverance by God's amazing grace
 - 1. Emphasis on grace, love, mercy, gift (vv4-9)
 - 2. Salvation is by grace!! (vv5,8)
 - 3. By grace, through faith (v8)
 - a. Grace is ground; faith is instrument
 - b. Faith not a work; receives Christ's work
 - 4. Grace, through faith in Christ (vv4-7)
 - 5. Rom 3:22-24; Tit 3:4-7
- C. The Good News of grace!
 - 1. Salvation by grace, faith, Christ - first to last!!
 - 2. Q15 - God delivers us through Christ!

IV. Gratitude - Fruit of the Gospel

- A. Gratitude is fruit - not Gospel itself
 - 1. We live in gratitude for God's grace

2. Gospel transforms - but transformation not Gospel

B. Our gratitude for God's deliverance (v10)

1. Gratitude - life of good works (Eph 2:10)

2. Gratitude - God prepared for this too! (v10)

3. Grace & gratitude of good works (Tit 2:11-14)

C. Christian ethics is gratitude (Q15 - show gratitude)

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see our guilt before God?

1. Guilt is not about 'feeling guilty'

2. Guilt is our objective failure before God

3. Some clamor against this - makes us feel bad

4. Only those forgiven much love much!!!

5. Do we meditate on law - see our guilt?

6. Do we show this to our children? Others?

B. Do we see the grace of God shown in Christ?

1. Christ's coming is about grace!

2. The gospel is the gospel of grace!

3. Gospel is not about us, or our transformation

4. Gospel is about what Christ did!!!!

5. Do we meditate on God's grace to us?

6. Do we speak of this grace to others - of just law?

C. Are we full of gratitude - and show it in life?

1. If we see our guilt, God's grace - only response!

2. Do we show this gratitude to God - in praise?

3. Do we show this gratitude to God - in obedience?

4. Do my friends, family see me as grateful - or judgmental?

D. Communion - Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude

1. Bread - broken for our guilt

2. Juice - blood shed by pure grace

3. Conclusion - gratitude for grace of God!

Guilt, Grace, and Gratitude - The Gospel and Its Fruit

Ephesians 2:1-10

Titus 2:11-14

May 16, 2010

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

What must you know to be part of God's people?

To be part of God's people I must know how great my sin is, how God has delivered me from my sin and misery through Christ, and how I can show my gratitude to God for delivering me.

As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Romans 3:10-12

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

Romans 3:19-20

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22-24

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14