



The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look at next Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week and prepare for the upcoming Sunday. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Why is the name *Immanuel* so important to the biblical narrative?
- Summarize what is needed in order for us to be restored to God. How do we obtain those things?
- What does it mean for your everyday life that the complete righteousness of Christ has been given to you? Why does that matter in the normal everyday life?

QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

***See the [NEW CITY CATECHISM](#) app for great questions to review with your children to help them understand Christian Theology.

- What is the entire Bible all about?
- Why is the death of Jesus on the cross important?
- Why is it so important that Jesus lived the perfectly righteous life?
- How do you know God is not angry with you because of your sin?

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Family Devotional:

[Long Story Short](#) by Machowski

Articles:

[Double Imputation](#) by RC Sproul

[Union With Christ](#) by Michael Horton

Podcasts:

[Justification by Faith Alone](#) (podcast #6) by The White Horse Inn
[In Christ Alone \(Solus Christus\)](#) by Thinking Fellows

Videos:

[What is the Bible basically about?](#) By Tim Keller
[What Drove Luther's Hammer?](#) with Rod Rosenblatt

Books:

[Found in Him](#) by Elyse Fitzpatrick
[Union With Christ](#) by Todd Billings

SONGS WE SANG:

**Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>*

[10,000 reasons \(Bless the Lord\)](#) by Matt Redman
[Take My Life](#) by Ridley Havergal [performed by Norton Hall Band]
- Read about the hymn- [Hymn Stories: Take My Life](#)
[Give Me Faith](#) by Elevation Church
[Beautiful Things](#) by Gungor
[Alive in You](#) by Jesus Culture

READINGS:

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty.

C: I long, yes, I faint with longing to enter the courts of the LORD. With my whole being, body and soul, I will shout joyfully to the living God.

L: Even the sparrow finds a home there, and the swallow builds her nest and raises her young—at a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God!

C: How happy are those who can live in your house, always singing your praises.
(Psalm 84:1-4)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Our Father, you have revealed your righteousness apart from the law, but we still behave as slaves to that law.

C: Forgive us Lord. Help our unbelief.

L: Your righteousness is granted freely through faith in Christ, but we still try and earn it.

C: Forgive us Lord. Help our unbelief.

L: When we doubt our need of You, remind us of the enslaving yoke of our sin. Just as Israel was desperate for your deliverance, so too are we reliant on you.

C: Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven.

L: When we doubt our worth to receive your grace, remind us that worth was never relevant. Surely as you counted Abraham righteous through his faith, so too will it be counted to us who believe in Christ crucified.

C: Blessed are those whose sins are covered.

L: When we doubt your promises, remind us of your covenant to Abraham. Surely as you protected faith among his descendants, so too will you preserve faith among us for generations.

C: Blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not count their sin.

L: Pardon our boasting and fill us with knowledge of our need.

C: Forgive us Lord. Help our unbelief.

L: Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of your new covenant with the world. He alone was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Though we may try, we cannot save ourselves.

C: Our pride is offended, but our souls are free. Thanks be to God, Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The hope of the gospel is peace with God and peace with one another. As the church we are a picture of that future hope. This is why each week we greet one another with the peace that Jesus Christ has brought us. Take a moment now to greet one another and enjoy the peace we have in Christ.

BENEDICTION

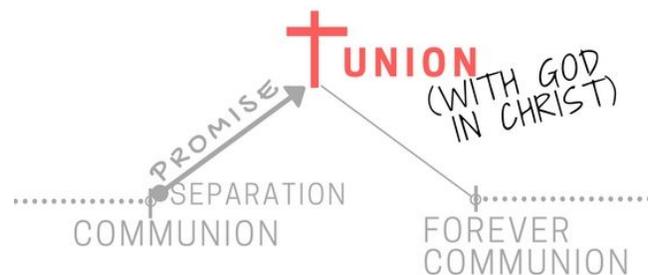
L: Let grace, mercy, and peace be with us in truth and love from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son! [Adapted from 2 John 3]

Peace be with you!

C: And also with you!

SERMON NOTES

Rescued Into Him: Union



SERMON SUMMARY: Our ONLY HOPE is that our life is found in Jesus Christ

I. Should we see the entirety of the Bible to be about Jesus?

Luke 24:26-27 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

Luke 24:44 *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."*

John 5:39-40 *You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.*

II. Jesus as "Immanuel" (God with us")

Matthew 1:21-23 (p.807)

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

* This is clearly picking up on the promises God made to be reunited with his family in the Old Testament (ex- Ezekiel 37:27)

III. What is needed to reunite us to God

Two things needed: 1) Sin removed and 2) Righteousness obtained

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin [*our sins transferred to Christ*], so that in him we might become the righteousness of God [*His righteousness transferred to us*].

The Work of Christ Part I: OUR SIN GIVEN TO HIM

Isaiah 53:3-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

John 1:29 “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Where does Jesus take the sins of the world? At the cross.

We see Jesus there, hanging on the cross, receiving the punishment for sins for rebels like you and me. The very people who throughout the story couldn't keep up their end of the bargain, who couldn't make themselves better and frankly, didn't care to. And he is accursed for those people!

All our rebellion, lack of faith, selfishness, autonomy, lack of love, lack of sacrifice for others, judging others, hate, racism, lust, gossip, **IT'S ALL IN HIM** at the cross.

SERMON SUMMARY: Our ONLY HOPE is that our life is found in Jesus Christ

Romans 4:25

[Jesus] was delivered up for our trespasses...

When Jesus sits down with his his disciples to enjoy the passover meal, he does something quite strange...

Matthew 26:26-28

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus is saying HE is the passover lamb, He is the sacrifice for sin. And he says to his disciples- "Put upon me will be the sin of the world, I take it, I will be punished for it, now forgiveness is yours. Take and eat!!" He takes the sin, they receive forgiveness in Him.

Work of Christ Part II: HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS GIVEN TO US

Notice it's not enough to simply have our sins removed. That only puts us in neutral state. We haven't done anything wrong, but we haven't lived up to the righteous requirement of God either. We need a state of being where God is fully pleased with us because we have not only never sinned, but also lived up perfectly to the law of God. We need a status of perfect! Never sinned and ONLY loved all the time perfectly, ever.

We need not only OUR SINFUL LIFE PUT UPON CHRIST, we also need his RIGHTEOUS LIFE IN US! And we need the resurrection of Christ as the seal that both those things were sufficient and completed and new life apart from those has come.

Listen to what theologian Michael Horton says concerning the imputation (or 'crediting') of Christ's righteousness to us-

"If you set out all the ingredients to make chocolate chip cookies but leave out the singular ingredient of chocolate chips, then you don't have chocolate chip cookies when you pull the tray out of the oven. Likewise, you can have most of the key ingredients of the gospel. You can have the understanding that we are sinners. You can have an understanding of God as holy and just. You can have an understanding of Christ and His work on the cross. But if you leave out imputation, you don't have the gospel. This is why the Reformers considered this word absolutely essential to a biblically faithful proclamation of the gospel."

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Now we can see the importance of Jesus stating: *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."* - **Matthew 5:17**

The righteous requirement of the law does not just go away. Then God isn't just. That standard is still there. So we need Jesus to live that law perfectly. If the law is summarized (as it is by Jesus) as LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR, Jesus the only one to ever do that

- So as you read the gospels (books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) what is Jesus doing? He is living the life you and I never could. The perfect life of love.

Romans 8:3-4

For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us,

What this means: HOW HIS WORK IS OURS

The only thing God accepts is Jesus. "You MUST BE perfect as your heavenly father is perfect" Matt 5:48

SERMON SUMMARY: Our ONLY HOPE is that our life is found in Jesus Christ

Of this "Union with Christ", John Calvin wrote,

"We must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from him, all that he has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us....All that he possesses is nothing to us until we grow into one body with him"

Back to 2 Corinthians 5:21- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

This is our place of acceptance. This is where life is found. In the person of Jesus Christ.

- He isn't some example for us to follow, we never could! He is our life that we claim as our own.
- He died for us, we gave him our sin, and he gave us his life and grafted us into him.

Hear these verses concerning our "Union with Christ"

Colossians 3:3-4

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

Ephesians 1:1

To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

That means everything that He has is ours, everything he receives is ours, and the way He relates to the Father is the way we relate to the Father. God now looks at us as He looks at Christ. He treats us as He treats his son, Christ.

HE IS OUR NEW IDENTITY.

An illustration to help:

Cuban spy named Salvador, sent to Miami as a mole in order to learn military secrets from the United States government. However, Cuban nationalists with whom Salvador associated eventually led the clever spy to renounce his loyalties to Castro. As a result, Salvador turned himself into the United States government and they offered asylum, protection, and a new identity. The government masterminded a "murder" of Salvador so Castro's officials would assume the death of their spy, and once this plan was carried out Salvador was issued new documents, a new name, and a new life.

So When the law accuses us-

"Where's your total devotion and pure love for God and God alone?"

- We point over to Christ- "Will His do?"

"Where is your sacrificial love for your neighbor?"

- We point over to Christ- "I'll take His."

"Where is your unshakable and constant faith in God?"

- We point over to Christ- "He's got it."

WE are IN HIM. IN HIS LIFE, IS US!

You don't become the righteousness of God by doing, you become righteousness of God by being found IN CHRIST!

Jesus says to us today-

You know your sinful life? All those sins you can't tell anyone about. How about complete forgiveness for the whole lot?

You know that shame you have over how you can't be better? How about complete Righteousness instead?

You know that regret and hate you have for yourself? How about unending approval and love from God?

You know those filthy rags you have? How about being clothed in a white robe instead?

That sounds amazing. It's yours IN CHRIST!

Amen.

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

To help you prepare your heart and mind for this Sunday, we encourage you to read the scripture & readings and listen to the songs we'll be singing this Sunday. May God prepare our hearts to hear what He has to say to us.

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

READINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP

All: O God, by your power may we, with all the saints, comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that we may be filled with your fullness. Amen.

—based on Ephesians 3:18-19

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things— our hearts are filled with joy.

C: By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us.

L: But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect;

we try to add to what is already full;

we try to earn what we already have.

C: Forgive us for our foolishness.

L: Help us to focus on your grace.

Help us to live grateful lives in return. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

—based on Psalm 126

WORD OF ASSURANCE

L: While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION

L: Go forth, remembering who you are and to whom you belong.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!