

### **SERMON GUIDE:**

**February 19, 2023, Pastor St. John Eyre**

### **LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS:**

It's one thing to read on paper that God forgives us of our sins but it's another thing to accept God's forgiveness and escape the prison of condemnation. For many, carrying a burden of condemnation can be very difficult to let go of.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. Roman 8:1-2 (NIV)

God works in the middle of sin. He delights in freeing his children from it.

Key points:

1. God works in the midst of our sin, we don't have to come pre-washed
2. We are justified by faith in Christ who imputes righteousness upon us
3. Have a battle plan at the ready when the devil attacks your thoughts

Discussion points:

1. What makes it so difficult for someone to feel unburdened of their past sins?
2. What happens when we dwell upon a temptation?
3. Ask yourself – are you holding any sins you are too ashamed of to turn over to God?

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Roman 8:34 (NIV)

Family, remember that there is nothing that God can't solve on your behalf. Accept forgiveness of your sins, break away from the shame of it all. Remember that which you kept hidden in darkness, when exposed to the light, will have to lose its grip on you. You will be glad you did.

### **PARKWAY THOUGHTS: A word from Terry Barber, 2-15-2023:**

#### **The Bible is designed for the hungry!**

One of my favorite verses is John 1:1. *"In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God."* A simple sentence but a complex thought. I mull over it often, attempting to look at God's infinite thoughts remodeled in my brain. Through God's one sentence, John 1:1 encapsulated our wonderful Holy God Jesus Christ. You might have your own favorite mulling verse or verses. Good!



I have heard people say, I have read the Bible before once and others, why can't I understand a certain verse or passage. Maybe something keeps us from understanding. 1 Peter 2:1-2 says *"Therefore, rid yourselves of malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind."* (Do not eat and fill the mind with junk food.) *"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted the Lord's good"*. (Eat the good healthy food.) God does provide a compass for our thoughts in Phil: 4:8. says, *"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy think about these things"* and Ephesians 6:11 shows how to defend ourselves: *"Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take a stand against the devil's schemes....."*

Still, how do we grow and be drawn to God's Word? By realizing the Word is literal in meaning, **God says what He means and means what He says**. It is as current today as when written. Prov. 25:2 says, *"It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, to search out a matter is the glory of kings."* Why would God conceal a matter? Look at the prophets Daniel, Isaiah, Zechariah, don't you think they were a little frustrated not being able to see what is now revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Through them, God's planned prophecies came true and promises are yet to be fulfilled. Righteous kings like Solomon spent their time considering and making difficult decisions, God provided the wisdom and unrighteous were rebuked. Who are we that we not do the same?

We call home planet earth. God spoke the universe into being and wrote through His scribes the Word's wisdom. From a Christian view point, decisions are made prayerfully to heal, protect, console and obey God' commandments. The Bible was designed to teach, lead and bring a communion through Jesus Christ. He speaks to us when we bow a head, bend a knee, sing His praises and read a Bible's well worn pages. Each time, it allows us to digest ageless wisdom that speaks into our lives. God always desires His children to earnestly seek and search His written Word. He provided the Holy Spirit to create a connecting tap root deep within our hearts that charges us to glorify Him, edify the saints and seek the lost. Young or old, our infinite Holy God calls His hungry to drawer closer! Jesus said it best in John 6:25 *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty"*.