

The Sermon Connection

Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

Volume 4 Issue 13



The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

Resurrection Sunday 2018: "Believe. Receive. Give."

2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2

Sermon by Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr.

April 1, 2018

Resurrection Sunday (Easter) is probably the greatest day on the Church calendar. The fact that Jesus Christ rose again from the dead means that The Gospel is true. It proves that God Himself made a way for sinful man to made right with Him. Calvin's message focused on 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2. He introduced it by pointing out that our culture seems obsessed with the concepts of simple, clean, and easy. For instance, we hear advertisements of "point and click" to make your next purchase. Cameras are point and shoot. Consider simplicity and the power of Lego. Or, have you visited an Apple Store? None of these products are necessarily simple in nature, yet they present themselves in such a simple and "digestible" manner.

Calvin then pointed out that God presents to us the solution to the most significant and complex issues in mankind – sin, death and eternity – in the simplest of ways. The answer to mankind's most significant and complex challenge is found in one simple word: "Gospel." The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ solved our greatest dilemma.

Paul's passage to the Corinthians lays out these three simple things: Believe. Receive. Give. The first simple step in the Gospel is to believe it wholeheartedly. Paul says that Jesus died for everyone and that He was raised from death so that they (us) would live for Him. This echoes what John says in his gospel: God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son – and that whoever believes in Him will not die!

The second simple step Paul shows is that we should receive the Gospel's benefits fully. When we are born-again, Paul says that we become new creations – the old goes away. God no longer looks at us as guilty. That is the reality that we can live out in our lives on a daily basis. We are peace with God!

Finally, we are to give the Gospel to others simply. As believers in Christ, we are to now speak for Him. Paul says that it is like God is calling to people through us. That should be our primary mission in life: to share with other people that they can be made right with God.

Believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures; that he was buried; and that he rose from the grave, in order to show that he conquered sin, death and grave, and that his sacrifice was acceptable to God on our behalf. Receive the benefits offered through the Gospel of forgiveness from sin, power to live for God, and hope for eternity. Give the gift of the Gospel to others by simply sharing your story and THE STORY of God 's love for every man, woman and child shown through His son, Jesus Christ.

E-CHECK: Embracing Intimacy With God and Engaging Your Circle of Influence

READING AND REFLECTION:

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 6:2. Read the passage several times and note any observations you make about what Paul is saying.

In verse 16 Paul says that he used to regard Jesus as one way, and now he regards (thinks of) Him in a different way. What do you think that he means? Can you say that you think of Jesus differently than you once did?

According to verses 17-19, what happens when a person becomes “in Christ?” How and why does it happen?

According to 5:20 – 6:2, what role do those of us who are in Christ have in telling others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Explain the Gospel in a paragraph.

Write out your story of salvation in a paragraph.

Which part of the message – Believe. Receive. Give. – do you struggle with the most? Why? How can you grow in that area?

Which part of the message – Believe. Receive. Give. – do you thrive with the most? Why? How can you grow in that area?

COMMUNITY CONNECTION:

As you meet with your family or small group this week, discuss the simplicity of Believe. Receive. Give. Honestly evaluate with each other where you are at in each of those 3 steps. Encourage each other.

KEY POINT:

Believe. Receive. Give.

RESOURCES:

One Year New Testament Bible (available at the information table)

Attend the “Dare to Share” workshop