

Sermon Notes – February 28, 2016

Review

- ⇒ In our study two weeks ago we saw that God has tied together _____ and _____. You cannot have one without the other.
- ⇒ Last week's text helped us think biblically about prayer. We saw that _____ prayer flows from _____ in the God to whom we pray.
- ⇒ We also saw that _____ helps us to pray "according to His will."

Hearing God's Word About Sin: I John 5:13-17

According to the Bible sin is a serious affront to God. Isaiah was right to tremble in the presence of a holy God (Isaiah 6).

- ⇒ Sin caused Adam & Eve to be driven out of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:24).
- ⇒ In the Old Testament animal sacrifices are required to _____ until a Perfect Sacrifice would one day come. Cf. Leviticus; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 10:1-4
- ⇒ In Leviticus 10 two sons of Aaron, Nadab & Abihu, approach God in a less-than-holy manner and God takes their lives.
- ⇒ The brutal death of Christ on the cross shows the awfulness of sin (II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:24).
- ⇒ In Acts 5 two members of the early church, Ananias & Sapphira, _____ and God takes their lives.
- ⇒ In I Corinthians 11: 27-32 Paul mentions that "some have died" as a result of persistently treating holy things as common. Cf. God's discipline in Hebrews 12:4-11
- ⇒ Fact: Any sin is a violation of God's law. James 2:10, "Whoever keeps the whole law but fails at one point has become accountable for all of it."
- ⇒ Correction: All sin, however, is *not* equal. This is a very popular half-truth! Cf. Matt. 23:23; I Cor. 11:30; I John 5:16.

Sobering Truth About Serious Sin
I John 5:16-17
Pastor Jay Mosser

Awareness of Another's Sin is Cause for Prayer (5:16)

- ⇒ John is *not* talking about a particular sin.
- ⇒ Prayer should be a _____...not gossip or "prayer-gossip."
- ⇒ This kind of prayer should be _____, _____, & non-judgmental. Listen to Paul's counsel in Galatians 6:1-5...

All Sickness and Death is NOT an Evidence of God's Specific Judgment...but Sometimes It Is (5:16-17)

- ⇒ We are called to regularly _____. This is not a call for undue introspection; if there is something in your life that God wants to talk with you about, listen and confess and turn away from sin! Cf. Psalm 139:23; I Cor. 11:28; II Cor. 13:5; James 5:13-16.
- ⇒ So...what exactly is "sin unto death" and why would Paul say, "I do not say that one should pray for that"? Pastor Jay's answers:
- ⇒ (1) "Sin unto death" is _____; (2) How would I know if a person has committed it? First, this is God's to know, and second, the person would have died; (3) How can I be sure that I don't commit "sin unto death"? Love Christ. Repent. _____ sin; don't _____ with it. (4) Is "sin unto death" the same as "the unpardonable sin"? No! The only unpardonable sin a person can commit today is to _____ God's offer of _____ in Christ.

Responding to God's Word:

- ⇒ The greatest antidote to lingering sin and the most important way that I can fight against it is through the Gospel of Jesus Christ: Don't just glance at the cross, "fix your eyes" on Christ! Behold!
- ⇒ In our fight against the power of indwelling sin we are never called to "fix our eyes" on sin...but on Christ! Remember II Cor. 3:18: "*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*"
- ⇒ The "spiritual disciplines" are God's gifts to help you: Keep public worship a high priority, spend time in God's Word & prayer, take communion seriously, join a Small Group...