

Righteousness by Faith: Christ or Sin?

Till Plains 8/27/2022

Join us on **Sunday at 7 PM** on Zoom for Sermon Essentials to dive deeper into today's message. You can use the link <https://zoom.us/j/285038684> or call 312.626.6799 and enter the ID 285 038 684 to be part of the discussion.

Text: Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."

Notice: The Beatings Will Continue...

1. Think of a particular sin with which you struggle. Why are you not victorious in overcoming that sin?

Sermon on the Mount, an Impossible Challenge

Reference verses: Matthew 5-7

2. Read the Sermon on the Mount. In what ways do Jesus' words challenge you regarding the struggle with sin in your life?

Reference verses: Matthew 7:28-29

3. It is mentioned how the people were astonished by the authority of Jesus in His teaching. What do you think they saw in Jesus, which they didn't see in the lawyers (scribes)?

I Do, and I Don't

Reference verse: Romans 7:13-25

4. Although the battle against sin seems unwinnable at times, what does Paul's discussion of the battle between sin and righteousness reveal to you regarding your own struggle against self?

Faith Is the Victory

Reference verses: John 8:34-36

5. If Jesus has made you free, why does sin continue to have such a strong hold on your heart? (Think about Prescott's experience.)
-
-

The Reason for Pointing Out Sin

Carefully consider the following statement by A.T. Jones from 1893:

"When sin is pointed out to you, say, 'I would rather have Christ than that.' And let it go.

[Congregation: 'Amen.'] Then where is the opportunity for any of us to get discouraged over our sins? Now some of the brethren here have done that very thing. They came here free; but the Spirit of God brought up something they never saw before, went deeper than ever before, and revealed things they never saw before. And then, instead of thanking the Lord and letting the whole wicked business go, and thanking the Lord that they had ever so much more of Him than before, they began to get discouraged.

If the Lord has brought up sins to us that we never thought of before, that only shows that He is going down to the depths, and He will reach the bottom at last. And when He finds the last thing that is unclean, out of harmony with His will, and shows that to us, and we say, "I would rather have the Lord than that"—then the work is complete, and the seal of the living God can be fixed upon that character.

Which would you rather have, the completeness, the perfect fullness of Jesus Christ, or have less than that with some of your sins covered up that you never knew of? So He has to dig down to the deep places we never dreamed of, because we cannot understand our hearts.

Let Him go on; let Him keep on His searching work." — A.T. Jones, *General Conference Bulletin*, 1893, 404.

6. What role is the Holy Spirit playing in the battle between sin and righteousness?
-
-

7. What is your choice when the Holy Spirit brings up the sins of your life?
-