

John 14:6 “Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’”

There is an old fable about two artists and both of them were extremely talented and had their own audiences of followers. They lived in the same town so eventually a decision was made to host a competition to determine which of the two was really the best artist. On the day of the judging, many people came to watch, and it was decided to hold the contest outdoors. Because of the sun and the wind, and perhaps to raise the suspense just a bit, both paintings were to be covered with draperies until each was revealed and judged one at a time. The drapery was removed from the first painting. It was a still life of fruits and flowers. It looked so real. The colors and the shadings were so authentic. In fact, some birds flew down from the trees and tried to pick the grapes on the canvas. People were so moved by the painting that the judges even wondered if they even needed to look at the second painting, but they decided they needed to. The judge tried to remove it from the painting. As he looked closer he found he could not remove the drapery. The drapery covering the second painting was, in fact, the painting itself. The best artist was selected. One painting looked real enough to fool birds while the second one was so real it fooled everyone. Sometimes we have trouble picking out the real from the unreal, the true from the untrue or only the partially true. How do you know what is truth? I would invite you to go back to God's word and hear the words of Jesus who said, “I am the truth.” You want to know what is true? Center your life in Jesus Christ and in His word, and you will discover truth. - Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

II Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

I meet Christians all the time who wish they were a little bit different. They tell me they want to be further along in their Christian walk. They tell me some flaw, some perceived short-coming, and say if they knew more Bible , if they had more of this and less than that then they would lead a small group, they would teach a class, they would mentor a young Christian. They point to some wart in their lives and say if it weren't here then God could use them. Newsflash! You are not a liability to God. When you are saved you stop being a liability to God. Even when we mess up God is still going to use it somehow for our or someone else's good. Stop saying to yourself that God can't use you yet. God can and will use you just as you are if you allow Him to. Your body is the exact vessel God wants to use, warts and all. The question is-will you stop focusing on yourself and instead focus on God and offer yourself to God for His use. You are the vessel. You carry Christ. The treasure is not you, the vessel. It isn't about how you look on the outside or even how you feel about your body or your warts. The treasure is what is inside of the vessel. Your purpose, no matter whether you are a young Christian or mature in Christ, is to allow the life of Christ to flow through you onto others. God wants to express Himself through you and use your warts to do it. People are not attracted to your perfections. People sympathize and people lay down their defenses because of your warts. Your humanity is how God touches the world.. - Virginia Thompson

Ephesians 5:1-2a “Follow God's example in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love for others.”

As you read through the gospels, you cannot help but be amazed by the grace and kindness of Jesus. Yet, His boldness and audacity are equally amazing. Jesus was not afraid of confrontation. The majority of his conflicts seemed to take place with the Pharisees. He calls the Pharisees hypocrites, white washed tombs, and blind guides. Why did Jesus and the Pharisees have so many disagreements? What can we learn from their many mistakes? First, we learn that outward actions of religion do not necessarily equal a relationship with God. The Pharisees were models of piety. Yet, all their religious activity was fake. Jesus calls them “whitewashed tombs” because their beautiful outward appearance covered the emptiness of their inward lives. In similar fashion, Christians can fall into this same trap. We do all the right things and say all the right words, but ultimately it is all show. We are dead and empty on the inside. It is crucial that are religious activity be the overflow of our love relationship with Christ. Second, the Pharisees' lack of mercy and compassion bothered Jesus. The Pharisees were more concerned about the technicalities of the law than the condition of people. They often missed the miracles of healing and forgiveness due to their own legalism. Again, Christians are tempted to make the same mistake. Often our religious activity can be divorced from our love for God and love for people. If our faith begins to make us increasingly impatient and insensitive, we may need to examine who we are following. Scripture is clear: the fruits of the Spirit are “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.” -- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/ Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions

FRIDAY

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

Waiting on God

Psalms 27:13-14 “13 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

Sarah, the wife of Abraham. God told Abraham to go to the land of Canaan, and Abraham obeyed. Sarah didn't know much about the plan, yet she knew one thing. She was going where Abraham was going. Tim is walking inside God's path. I don't know much about the plan, but I am going where Tim is going. God has whispered to Tim that it is time to retire, but He hasn't let us in on the next step. So... we wait. We wait. We wait for God to reveal the plan. Where will we live? We don't know. What other work in ministry will we be given? We don't know. God will let us know when He is ready. And, with patience, we will trust Him because He asks us to trust. Waiting is something God asks us all to do. At some point in your life, God will ask you to trust Him in the waiting. We don't always see His hand or know the plan, but God is working in the wait. If you are in one of God's 'waiting rooms,' know this, God is preparing a place for you. God is preparing you for the place. God is preparing people for you to meet, and He is preparing work for you to do. And God is making all these preparations, while we wait, in order to work His plan and purpose. Our task as His children is patiently and prayerfully and with great trust in God – wait. - Virginia Thompson

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

WESLEY HALL - FEBRUARY 14, 2016

WORSHIP GUIDE & DAILY DEVOTIONS

SERMON SERIES: CRUX

Week 1– Choose Grace

Week 2 – Choose Humility

Week 3 – Choose Truth

Week 4 – Choose Trust

Week 5 – Choose Sacrifice

Week 6 – Choose Forgiveness



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Choose Grace
Romans 5:14-19

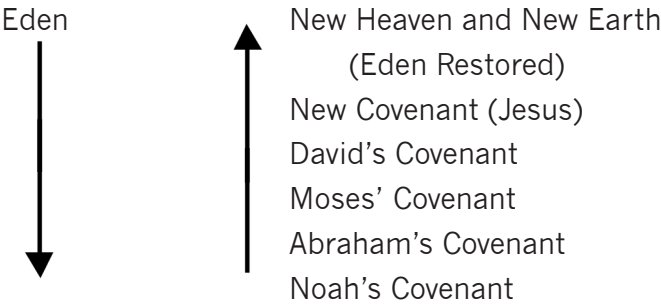
“What a contrast between Adam and Christ, who was yet to come! And what a difference between our sin and God’s generous gift of forgiveness. For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this other man, Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God’s bountiful gift. And the result of God’s gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man’s sin. For Adam’s sin led to condemnation, but we have the free gift of being accepted by God, even though we are guilty of many sins. The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God’s wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam’s one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness makes all people right in God’s sight and gives them life. Because one person disobeyed God, many people became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many people will be made right in God’s sight.” Romans 5:14-19 NLT

Bad News...

- Sin caused the end of Eden (God’s original intent):
 - We lost our identity as God’s people.
 - We lost our place in paradise.
 - We lost our access to God’s presence.

Good News...

- God’s grace is greater than our sin:
 - Jesus defeated the curse started in Eden.
 - Jesus saved us from our sins.
 - Jesus restored our relationship with him.



“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” Romans 5:8 NLT

— Rev. Brandon Dasinger
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Go Deeper:

- Sin causes us to lose our true identity in Christ. What are some things that people place their identity (self-worth) in? What does it mean to have our identity in Christ? How does our new identity impact the way we live?
- Read Ephesians 2. How does Paul describe the bad news of sin? How does he describe the good news of the gospel? How does the gospel affect our relationships with one another?
- What stood out about today’s message? How does the understanding of the cross and God’s unlimited love change the way you think about God? your life? your calling?

Watch today’s sermon on WFRZ-TV or online at frazer.church/.
You may also order a CD of today’s service at the Connection Point desk.

HERE AM I

II Chronicles 7:14 “If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin. I will heal their land.”

My friend, John Cunningham, Jr, an active member of Frazer, wrote this piece on Facebook, and I think it is a good word for us to ponder today: “Yale University 1789: Its students took pride in being sinners and infidels. Yale University 1795: Timothy Dwight becomes the President of Yale and fires all of its ungodly professors. He begins to carefully rebut the philosophical arguments the students had against Christianity, which they had taken from the philosophers of the French Revolution. Yale University 1802: In its chapel services Dwight preached the Bible in a scholarly manner and point by point rebutted the French Revolution’s philosophers.” This sparked a revival on the campus and led to about one-third of the student body becoming born again Christians. This was but one phase of what became known as America’s Second Great Awakening. America 2016: From no matter how low our society has sunk, God can always raise up men and women of God like Timothy Dwight and use them to bring our country back to Him. Why He might even raise us up to do it, if we make ourselves available.
- Dr. Tim Thompson, Senior Pastor

Marriage: A Beautiful Mess

Ephesians 5:31-33 “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

I think marriage is beautiful because here we see the mysterious union of two becoming one. I think marriage is messy because here we see two sinners trying to be one. Not easy. This is why marriage requires divine grace. I am very aware that God has blessed me with a unique person for a wife. My wife, Kelli, is sweet, compassionate, and strong. Most people (including her) would not perceive her as “strong.” In our culture we think of “strong” in terms of outgoing, outspoken, and controlling. Kelli is none of these things. She is a shy introvert who would rather jump out of a window then speak in front of a large crowd. Yet, she has what the Bible calls quiet strength. She is faithful, selfless, and available. She confirmed our decision to move to Kentucky so I could attend Asbury Seminary. She was vocal about our need to sponsor a child through World Vision even though I was in graduate school and we barely had enough to get by. She was the one who said “Let’s do it!” when we discussed adoption. And now we’re being certified as Foster Care parents. Let’s face it... most people would not want the life we have. Most spouses want new cars, jewelry, amazing vacations... not mission trips and adoptions. I am so grateful God blessed me with such an amazing wife. Don’t get me wrong, sometimes we are a mess just like any other couple. But our marriage is a beautiful mess, and I love our life together.
-- Rev. Brandon Dasinger/Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions