

Power points for faith #5 Forgiveness. 1 Cor 2.9-3.3, 1 John 1.5-9

Title / Intro - New series - power points for faith - re: sharing good news - what is it, how do we live it, how do we share it?

Started at very beginning.... Jesus. How to become a Christian? 'believe in Jesus' - Saving faith, and assurance of faith - seen lifeboats and trains to help us. Last two weeks we saw that God's Word, not our feelings is where we should put our faith God's word is an immovable rock we can confidently build our lives upon.

Let's make it personal: learning to live by faith in God's word, not our feelings - sometimes our Christian lives are underwhelming and we **don't feel as though we have much good news to share** - I don't want to be a Christian, I've already got enough problems!

Feel like a hypocrite? there's always room for one more, but it does undermine our confidence in sharing Jesus. Pedalling harder? Frustrated, disappointed, fruitless? roller coaster? Have I got good news for you!!

1 Corinthians 2/3 **diagnostic circles**: the person who does not have Christ in the life, the person who does, there is also a third circle, with its usual alarming honesty and simplicity the Bible shows us the problem...

family / fellowship - eternally secure, will go to heaven, but not enjoy the Father's love and joy in the present - **prodigal**, always a son, but living in a far place

The gospel for Christians: God's plan, we experience abundant & victorious life, are fruitful - that we experience his love and forgiveness - our problem, 2 parts - part one this week, when we are on the throne we sin and break fellowship. solution is the same, Jesus came to pay **full penalty of sin** past, present & future, application: how do we do this?

driving test, don't just tell me I'm wrong, help me turn around

1 John 1.9

Confess: agree with God

Faithful - never breaks his promise to forgive, always is trustworthy

Just - God is not letting us off - he has been just, the penalty has already been paid - all sins, always. It would be unjust to Jesus not to forgive us!!

Forgive: confession makes real in our daily experience what has already been done for us on the cross:
remember the **train** - are you forgiven because you feel forgiven? no, you put your faith in the facts of God & his word

cleansed from all unrighteousness - bird blotch

homework: read Psalm 32, read 1 John 1.5-9 (Paid in full)

ask God to show you anything, don't be afraid, he already knows, and he is showing you so you can be forgiven and free.

write 1 jn 1.9 over it, burn it, tear it up, destroy it - it is no longer true - forgiven, cleansed from all unrighteousness - completely clear.

Ask yourself, am I forgiven on the basis of Gods word? yes, do I feel it - does it change anything / matter?

new life in Jesus

The vista that now stretches out before you is a bit like when it snows overnight in the winter. Every step you take in the morning is on fresh ground. There is a special satisfaction about walking out into a white unspoilt World. Enjoy God's forgiveness and when he brings to your attention another issue to be dealt with confess it, and keep going in the white snow of God's grace.

If guilt should return to nag at your heels, remember the only one left with a vested interest in making you feel guilty is Satan. That is his day job. God's forgiveness is complete. "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). A little girl who had decided to open the door of her life to Jesus was then asked, "What would you do if Satan comes to the door tomorrow?" "I'd ask Jesus to answer the door," she replied. Good advice.