

DEVOTIONAL

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"What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the change that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin." ~Romans 3:9

What shall we conclude then? Last week we had a live stream where we talked about trauma-informed education and how it affects all students but also specifically those from ethnic minority groups. What shall we conclude then when we look at the lives of those children and the trauma they experience? What shall we conclude when we witness the effects of poverty in the communities around us? What shall we conclude when we see the nation on fire and the conflict in the streets?

The Apostle Paul knew a sin we all struggle with: we come to the conclusion that some are better and some are worse. That some are closer to God and some are farther away. So he levels us: there is no one righteous. No group has a spiritual advantage over another. And, Christ has died for all.

So what shall we conclude? The hope we have both for this life and for the next is found in Christ alone. That even if God doesn't provide a physical resolution to all these problems here and now, he still gives us hope for ourselves and hope to share. We get to go as his salt and light to people who are under the power of sin, just like we were, and give them real hope – just like God's given us.

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Prayer:

Heavenly Father, what should we make of it when the harsh realities of this fallen world confront us?

At times, it may be easy for us, because of our own fallen natures, to think that you don't care about us and that you're far away. But the Bible tells us this isn't the case. Time and time again, as we look at the pages of your Word, we're met with affirmations of your love for us. Still, as we look at the world around us, our hearts may question: What should we make of all this?

Thank you, Lord, that the answers, even to this question, are found in the Bible. Your grace is the great equalizer, not just because it's been given to all. It's also the great equalizer because we all stand in desperate need of it. Remind us of this as we step into this new week. And, as we remember this truth, empower and equip us to be salt and light in this sin-dark world. Remembering that there's no one who's righteous, help us also to extend to others grace, even when it gets difficult.

In Jesus' Name, we pray,

Amen.

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