

Questions for A Long Look At Salvation wk8

- Have you ever had some say something like, “We are all Christians, we are Americans?”
 - How did you react, what did you say in response?
 - How does a statement like that reveal a lack of the transforming power of the gospel being preached in many churches today?
- Why do you think so many people, that call themselves Christians, never think their lives need to be transformed?
- When you hear the word “repent” what images come to mind?
 - Evaluate those images: are they specters from your past? Are the pictures from society?
 - What does repentance really mean - according to the Bible?
 - In light of what repentance really means, are those images good or bad?
- Read 2 Corinthians 7:10.
 - Do you remember the four things Pastor Keith pointed out that characterize worldly sorrow? (It’s on the human level, it does not transform, it is passive, it is proud and avoids responsibility)
 - Have you seen these forms of sorrow in people you have known? In yourself?
- The alternative to worldly sorrow is godly sorrow.
 - Godly sorrow has sight. Have you ever experienced a time when the “lights came on” for you and you realized your had sinned and needed to repent?
 - Why do you “endure” the surgical knife of the Bible in our walk with God?
 - What does the knife do for us that we cannot do for ourselves?
 - How have you experienced its work in your life?
 - The sight that God grants us leads to sorrow for sin.
 - Read Luke 7:36-50. What does Jesus point out is the way we know the woman’s sins were forgiven?
 - How does she display this sorrow?
 - Does it seem that we do not have people today that have this level of sorrow for sin?
- Sorrow leads to action.
 - The first action is confession. Most people understand that we need to confess our sin to God, but why do you think many struggle to confess sin to one another?
 - Read James 5:16. Is that a command or an example? If it is a command, why don’t we seem to follow it?
 - What good things do you think would come for us as individuals and as a church body if we practiced confession?
 - The second action is making things right with humanity - like Zacchaeus. Is this as common an experience as confession should be? Why or why not.
- Does shame get a bad rap nowadays? If so, why?

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- Worldly shame drives us back to the thing that caused the shame in the first place. Have you ever experienced going back to the same sin because of shame?
- Godly shame drives us to Christ. Why do many people avoid going to Christ when they feel ashamed?
- Do you think hatred for sin is common in the church today? Why or why not?
 - What does it take for us to hate our sin and be willing to kill it off?
- So many people look at the fruit of their sin, rather than the root of their sin.
- Think of some fruits of sin that commonly trip people up, and then think of the root that should be prayed over and ripped out.
- EXAMPLE: Sexual activity outside of marriage is the fruit of sin. The root would be lust, and an inability to trust God's timing.