

SERMON SERIES: Living as Loved

SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer

DATE: August 25, 2024

Sermon Title

“His Love Pays Our Debt”

Introduction

This week we continued our series “Living as Loved”, focusing on what our lives would look like if we lived like we are loved by God. Our homes, schools, neighborhoods, jobs, and relationships would all look different, and our lives are changed when we know that we are loved. This week, our focus is on the love of God *paying our debt*. Because of Jesus’ love for us that took him to the cross, we get to live as free and loved people of God.

- What is something in your life that you have desperately wanted, but have never been able to get?

Seek the Word

- Read 1 John 2:1-2
 - What do the words “atoning sacrifice” mean to you? Is it easy to view Jesus that way in your life?
- Read 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - What do you think it means that God made Jesus “to be sin for us”? How does that make you feel about Jesus’ view of you?
- Read John 3:16
 - A very common verse that oftentimes is not appreciated for its depth, this verse tells us the purpose of Jesus’ life and ministry and death and resurrection. The unfortunate truth of this verse is the consequence for those who do not believe. Scott told us that whoever rejects Jesus is responsible for paying for their own sin. What thoughts or feelings are evoked when the reality of the price of sin is laid out so plainly when it comes to your life as well as the lives of those who do not know Jesus?

Go Deeper

Leviticus 16:21-22 talks about the “scapegoat” that would “carry on itself all their sins (the Israelites) to a remote place” and ultimately that would be used as a vehicle for the people’s atonement to God. Our modern language uses the term scapegoat in often a less redeeming and positive way. Are you uncomfortable with Jesus being the “scapegoat” for your sin? What changes in your view on yourself and sin when you think about Jesus taking your sin away to a remote place and releasing you from it?

Talk About It

- What is the biggest “debt” in your life that you have not turned over to Jesus to pay for?
 - Thank Him for his sacrifice and eternal payment on the cross, and turn that burden over to Him.
- What are the regrets in your life that are just eating away at you, that you have not surrendered to Jesus to redeem?
 - Ask Him to take those from you and free you from that regret.
- How does knowing that Jesus paid the penalty for all your sins already affect your daily life?
- What changes need to be made in how you live so that you can be a reflection of the forgiveness, mercy, and love of Jesus?

Wrap Up

Reminder: The sin in our lives no longer has power over us when we surrender our lives to Jesus. On the cross, and in the empty tomb, our debt was erased in the eyes of God when we accepted the love and forgiveness of Jesus. Our debts are paid, and with that freedom comes the responsibility to live it out in the world around us. God loves you so much, and is so filled with joy when we live as loved.

Challenge: If you have not said “YES” to Jesus, ever, take some time this week to think about it and ask people questions. Look to the people around you who have already taken that step and listen for ways in which the love of God has freed the people who surrender to Him. If you have taken that step already, and are living in the freedom that was paid for on the cross, pray to God daily that He would use you as a testimony to a broken and lost world that we do not have to carry our burdens and baggage alone... that we can be freed from the penalty of our sin, because the Son of God has already taken it away from us.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. – John 3:16-17