

Sunday, 13 February 2022

Rev. Joe Purcell – Changing Deeply

The gospel is not the power of God for you to change yourself; it is the power of God for you to be changed. Rom 1:16-17. Lasting change is the result of knowing and believing God's love for you, that He has truly and completely forgiven you. God's love is God's forgiveness. 1 John 4:9-11, 16.

Primary Text: Luke 7:30, 36-50

1. Forgiveness is humanity's most fundamental need.
2. To understand and interpret this story accurately, we must read it in
 - 2.1 Immediate Context – Luke 7:36, 30
 - 2.2 Overall Context – Luke 24:25-27, 44-47, 1 Cor 1:18, Rom. 1:16-17
3. The Law-Gospel Distinction - Rom 1:18, Rom 3:10-26; Gal 3:24
4. Forgiveness of our sins through the gospel of Jesus Christ is what sets us free to love God and our neighbor as we should – Luke 7:37-38, 1 John 4:16, Rom 1:18-3:26, Eph 3:16, Luke 7:40-42

Conclusion: (1) Believers who have trouble believing in God's forgiveness: pray Eph 3:16-19 for yourself. Know that we believe we are forgiven by faith, not our feelings. (2) Believers who have a shallow understanding of their need for forgiveness: meditate on Rom 3:10-26 and understand that God allows us to see our weaknesses through the law so that we may forsake our self-righteousness and embrace the righteousness of God in Christ. Through the gospel, God reveals His righteousness against the backdrop of our unrighteousness.

Discussion question:

1. What is humanity's most fundamental need?
2. Explain the conditions of two persons: the pharisee and the woman, in Luke 7. How does it relate to us today?
3. What produces deep and lasting change?