

SERMON NOTES

7th Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 10. Year A * July 16, 2023

Sermon by the Reverend Tom Rutherford

Isaiah 55:10-13 * Psalm 65 * Romans 8:1-11 * Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

What We Can't Do for Ourselves

Romans 8:1-11 – There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...

...because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.

And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

✦ Remember the "Do Do Verses!" (SEE LAST SUNDAY'S SERMON)

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. ...And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of the Spirit who lives in you.

Next Week's Lessons

Isaiah 44:6-8 * Psalm 86 * Romans 8:12-25 *

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Chewing on Our Daily Bread

Questions for conversation with your family, small group, or a friend

1. What is something, that no matter how hard you've tried to master it, you've never been able to accomplish it? Are you still trying? Or have you given up? Why?
2. What is something God has done for you in your life that you couldn't do for yourself?
3. Romans 8:1 says, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." That means those of us who have accepted God's invitation to be in his family are perfectly forgiven for any and everything we've ever done wrong. Do you feel like you are in God's family? Why or why not? And if not, but you'd like to be, please talk to one of our clergy, who will help you understand and accept that invitation.
4. Do you feel fully forgiven? Why or why not? If not, please talk to one of our clergy, who will help you understand and accept that forgiveness.
5. PRAY:
 - ✦ Thanking God for forgiving us and inviting us into his family.
 - ✦ For anyone you know who has not yet accepted God's invitation to be in His family.
 - ✦ For any needs in your group.