

3. Romans: the Key!

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. Genesis 21.8

The death He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6.10-11

We discover in the story of Abraham, Sarah and their family, that God _____ His Promises in spite of our faults and lack of trust, for the son of Promise, Isaac, was born. With all the dysfunction this family manifested, it is still a story of grace upon grace!

Whereas Abraham's and Sarah's faith~~less~~ness brought division into their household, Jesus is telling us that _____ faith~~ful~~ness will bring division into our households.

My focus this morning is on the theme of God's care even when _____ are faithless, and the movement from faith~~less~~ness to faith~~ful~~ness.

One of the great themes of the Book of Romans is justification by faith, and one of the great failures of the emphases of justification by faith in the Protestant Reformation was the ultimate unfolding of "_____ grace" in the life of the church. The question, *How can we who died to sin go on living in it?*, is as relevant today as it was when the apostle first raised it.

For in Romans justification (souls being reconciled to God) leads to sanctification (hearts transformed by God) which leads to eternal life (living life for God now and forever). The _____ to our part in this movement of the Spirit is given to us by Paul in Romans. He wrote, *The death [Jesus] died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Romans 6.10-11*

Life comes down to _____ and the choices we make to obtain our desires!

Anything we love _____ than God is an inordinate desire or affection. It is only by the grace of Jesus Christ that our inordinate affections can be exposed and transformed.

As we come to Christ's Table let us _____ our hearts to the Holy Spirit to reveal our inordinate affections that stand as obstacles to life in Christ. The Apostle Paul has given us the key to living in the Kingdom of God, ...*you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ!*