

Jesus Is...

NT Group Sermon Study
Jesus Is... The Bridge

March 27, 2016

Read and reflect on the verse below. Read slowly and let the words sink in. Copy it onto a 3x5 card or into the notes section of your phone so you can refer back to it or memorize it.

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” John 6:63

GETTING STARTED

What is the most unique, longest, highest or most perilous bridge you have ever crossed?

Read Romans 8:1-8 slowly, and note any words or phrases that stick out to you.

Paul is making no small point here, in fact, this is the biggest moment in the book of Romans. He is telling us about what life is like for those who celebrate in the victory of Jesus that he discusses earlier in the book. He is talking not only about the bridge, but also about life on the other side of the bridge.

1. What does Paul say happened through Jesus? What exists now that didn't exist before Jesus went through the events of Easter?
2. When you hear the words “sinful nature” or “sinful flesh,” what does that sound like to you?
3. What would it look like for you today to “set...mind on the Spirit” (8:6)? Why would that bring about “life and peace”?

The words “sinful nature” in the Bible’s original language can be literally translated “sinful flesh.” It doesn’t mean the body is bad. It means that because we’re separated from God we lean toward doing destructive things that bring temporary pleasure.

4. What does this passage challenge you to think? How do you see your own life in the light of what you read here?

Read Romans 8:9-11 slowly, and note any words or phrases that stick out to you.

Paul continues to distinguish the differences between living a life by the Spirit and life by the flesh. He addresses the readers of the letter telling them they no longer live by the flesh, but instead by the Spirit.

6. What is the relationship of this Spirit and Jesus? How does it relate to us?

7. What thoughts come when you read, “Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.” (8:10) What is the impact of having that Spirit? (8:11)

8. What does Paul say about the relationship between our body and our spirit? (8:11) How does 8:9-11 tie into 8:1-8? What does the whole picture Paul is painting here look like? What does this passage have to do with what we celebrated this past weekend?

This passage is incredibly difficult to understand - no matter who you are. Make a list of questions that come to you as you read this passage and make it a point to pray and pose each one to God. Also helpful are online commentaries, such as this one on Romans 8:1-17: <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/asbury-bible-commentary/Life-Spirit>