

SUNDAY RECAP | CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday and a quick look ahead. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

RECAP FOR: Sunday, April 8th, 2018

Take me directly to:

1. [PREPARE for this Sunday](#)
2. [REFLECT on last Sunday](#)
3. [Further Reflection and Study](#) (resources, questions, etc.)
4. [Resources for Kids \(and Parents\)](#)
5. [Sermon Review](#)

PREPARE FOR THIS SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

C: Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

L: Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

C: He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

L: Come now, all who thirst,

C: and drink the water of life.

L: Come now, all who hunger,

C: and be filled with good things.

L: Come now, all who seek,

C: and be warmed by the fire of love.

[Come Thou Fount](#)

[Cornerstone](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt.

C: We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins.

L: When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts.

C: We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower.

L: This has left some of us arrogant. This has left most of us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace.

C: Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

All the prophets testify about Christ that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. ☞ -from Acts 10:43☞

// Passing of the Peace //

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. - Romans 12:9–13

[Blessed Assurance](#)

// Benediction //

L: May God keep you believing that His grace is enough to save you. No matter who you are.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

Colossians 1:15–20

L: He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

C: And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

L: And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

C: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

L: And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

[10,000 Reasons/Bless the Lord](#)

[Rock of Ages](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Jesus, forgive my sins. Forgive the sins that I remember, and the sins I have forgotten.

C: Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction.

L: Forgive the times I have been proud of my own achievements and those when I have failed to boast in your works. Forgive the harsh judgments I have made of others, and the leniency I have shown myself.

C: Forgive the lies I have told to others, and the truths I have avoided.

L: Forgive me the pain I have caused others and the indulgence I have shown myself. Jesus, have mercy on me and make me whole. Amen

// Assurance of Pardon //

L: Hear the good news!

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

—based on 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Peter 2:24

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

C: Thanks be to God!

[Before The Throne of God Above](#)

[Grace Alone](#) (Offering Song)

// Passing of the Peace //

The good news is that those who were far off have been brought near. And we have been brought near to God and to one another through Christ our Lord. As a family with shared hope & peace, let's greet and welcome one another here today.

[Revelation Song](#)

// Benediction //

L: In your journeys to and fro God direct you;
in your happiness and pleasure God bless you;
in care, anxiety, or trouble

God sustain you;

in peril and in danger

God protect you.

The grace of God be with you all, now and always.

Peace be with you!

C: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY

Scripture to Meditate On:

1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

Reflection Questions:

- In our prayer of confession we said- "Forgive my many failures in the face of temptation, and those times when I have been stubborn in the face of correction." How are both these true of you? What are examples of both in your life? What do you imagine is the look on God's face when you fail in the midst of sin? What do the scriptures say is His feeling towards you in those moments?
- How does what Paul says about his conversion in 1 Timothy 1:16 shed light on conversions in general?
- Ryan mentioned how when the Apostle Paul later recounts his conversion he says that Jesus stated "It's hard for you to kick against the goads" (Acts 26:14), showing that there was a process involved his conversion and Jesus was pursuing him. As you think about your story, what were the "goads", or are currently the "goads", Jesus is using in your life to turn you towards Him?
- If Jesus not only saves us but also invites us to His mission to proclaim the gospel to the world, how can we be part of that? What does that currently look like for you? What could it look like?
- Consider this question: How am I part of building up our church? What gifts can I use to be an active part of our church family? And also- Is there anyone in whom I notice a particular gifting that I can encourage this week?

Suggested Resources

Videos: [Gospel-ish vs Gospel Fluency](#) Jeff Vanderstelt
[How to Fit Mission Into Your Schedule](#) Paul Tripp
[What is Missional Activity?](#) By Saturate
[Church is More](#) by Saturate

Articles: [7 Simple Ways to Share Your Faith with Others](#) Nicholas Davis
[Simple Ways to Be Missional](#) by Verge

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

Video: [Parents: It's Not Your Job to Change Your Children](#) Paul Tripp
Article: [Living Missionally with Kids](#) by Gospel Project

Questions to ask your children

- When you don't obey God, how does he feel about you? Why? (Make sure they understand that God loves them because of Christ, not because they obeyed or didn't obey that day. So no matter what, because of Christ, God loves them and has no wrath towards them. He is always fully pleased with them because they are "in Christ")
- Did you know that the Apostle Paul who wrote most of the New Testament in the Bible used to hate Christians and put them in jail? Think about that for a minute and lets discuss how that helps us understand who God can save.
- The Apostle Paul said we are "Ambassadors for Christ" What do you think that means?
- Why does God have you at your school? What do you think He wants the people in your school, on your team, and your friends in the neighborhood to know about Him?

- Who would you like to share the good news about Jesus with? Lets pray God will open their heart to the gospel!
- What do you think is a way we can get to know more people who don't know Jesus?

Prayer to pray with children:

God, thank you for saving us. Thank you for giving us the best news we could ever imagine to share with our friends and neighbors. We pray for the people around us who don't know Jesus. Would you please open their heart to the good news that Jesus saves sinners. Help us to take the time to tell them about Jesus because we care about them. Amen.

Sermon Review

Title: From Enemy to Messenger

Text: [Acts 9:1-22](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/from-enemy-to-messenger/>

Podcast: <https://cccplainfield.org/subscribe-to-podcast>

Sermon Overview:

Sermon Summary - In salvation, Jesus calls us and He sends us

The conversion of Saul (who would become the Apostle Paul and write much of the New Testament) is an exciting and amazing story. It's probably the most famous conversion in all of church history, but although it's known by many, it may be difficult to connect to for most because of its extraordinary circumstances (flashing light, being knocked down, hearing the audible voice of Jesus, being blinded, etc.). But as Paul reflects on his conversion to his understudy Timothy he says something interesting-

1 Timothy 1:16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

In other words, Paul is saying that if we take out the extraordinary circumstances around his conversion what we have is an example (or perhaps a "template") for what conversion is. With that understanding let's look at Paul's conversion as:

- 1) An Example of What Conversion Is
- 2) An Example of Who Jesus Saves
- 3) An Example of How Jesus Saves
- 4) An Example of What Jesus Does With Those He Saves

An Example of What Conversion Is

Paul's story helps us define conversion. I would define it like this: when Jesus interrupts your life. Look at the word play Luke uses in Acts 9:2-3

and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to *the Way*, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on *his way*, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him.

Luke is telling us a collision is coming. Saul is going on his way, but THE WAY is about to come crashing in! That's what happens in every conversion. There are only two ways you can be headed when THE WAY comes crashing in. You can be on the way of religion, earning your favor with God through your good works and what you abstain from or being your own god by living a life of doing what you want, when you want, why you want, and to whom you want. Neither of those are better than the other, both are rejecting Jesus. Conversion is when THE WAY interrupts your way.

An Example of Who Jesus Saves

In the words of Jesus, Saul is an opponent (persecutor), and Luke says he is a murderer and an enemy. Saul is not a “pretty good guy”. He later realizes this, as he says to Timothy- *“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost”* (1 Timothy 1:15). But the amazing thing to notice is that Saul was *in the midst* of sin (ie- “still breathing out murderous threats against the disciples” Acts 9:1) when Jesus pursues and converts him. Saul did not start a campaign to reform himself and then Jesus liked what He saw, so He saved Saul. No, Saul was in the midst of sin. Many of us think God is keeping us at an arm's length until we decide to reform our lives and start acting right. But that's not the story at all. For, “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8). Stop gazing at your sin and feeling pity for yourself, instead look to the risen Christ, see His wounds and receive His pardon.

An Example of How Jesus Saves

When Paul tells of his conversion story later in Acts 26 he adds something we didn't hear before. He tells us something else Jesus said to him- “It's hard for you to kick against the goads” (Acts 26:14). A goad was a sharp stick that was used to prod oxen to “convince” them to do what the owner wanted. Apparently, although we didn't see it, Jesus was pursuing Saul in some regard before that moment and was doing it ever so patiently. Perhaps this is why Luke tells us two times that Saul was present at the execution of Stephen. Perhaps that moment was a time when Jesus was impressing upon Saul the validity of the gospel message. If that is the case it's interesting to think about Stephen's effect on Saul. Stephen would have been used to influence the writer of the majority of the New Testament and the Apostle sent to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Stephen would never know this of course, because he was stoned to death before any of it took place. In his death, Stephen's blood is indeed the seed for the gospel to go forth to the ends of the earth.

An Example of What God Does With Those He Saves

Saul is not simply saved and then told to go wait for Jesus to come back. He is welcomed into God's mission (see v.6,20,28). You may think that is something specific to just Saul, but it seems once again, he considers it the norm for all conversions. He would later write in a letter to the Corinthians-

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, AND entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

(2 Corinthians 5:17-20)

This “ministry of reconciliation” is not something specific just to Paul, it is for “anyone who is in Christ”. This is the work of the church as Paul understands it- to be ambassadors for Christ with the message of reconciliation! It's not for some of us, it's not for a certain time or season in the church, it is for all of us, it is our identity as the church. We cannot *not* be involved in the message of reconciliation, after all, WE ARE AMBASSADORS! It's who we are! And if it is who we are, then how should we live? And make it more personal- how do you live as an ambassador? Who are the people you are sent to be an ambassador to? Do you spend time with unbelievers? If not, there is hope! Jesus will meet you there! Take a step of faith, live as an ambassador and trust the work to the only One who can change hearts. Even the hardest of hearts, that of an enemy like Saul. Amen.

