

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, May 13, 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

Listen to all the songs for this week on our [Weekly Spotify Playlist](#)

// Call to Worship //

L: Let us join our voices to praise the spotless Lamb, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us from sin and death.

C: We, whom he has redeemed, will sing praises and shout for joy this hour:

L: because in Christ the Lamb we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our sins in accordance with the riches of his grace.

C: Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

L: Let us praise him by saying: Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive honor and glory and praise!

C: To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb we give worship this hour and forever and ever. Amen.

[Here I am to Worship](#)

[Hallelujah What a Savior](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: Almighty God, we confess how hard it is to be your people.

C: You have called us to be the church, to continue the mission of Jesus Christ to our lonely and confused world.

L: Yet we acknowledge we are more apathetic than active, isolated than involved, callous than compassionate, obstinate than obedient, legalistic than loving.

C: Gracious Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive our sins.☞

L: Remove the obstacles preventing us from being your representatives to a broken world.☞

C: Awaken our hearts to the promised gift of your indwelling Spirit. This we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

// Assurance of Pardon //

I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.
A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put within you;
and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
—Ezekiel 36:25-26

L: Church, hear this good news- All your sins, past, present and future are forgiven by the God of the universe. Jesus has died for you.

C: Hallelujah! We have been made clean by the blood of the lamb!

[Rock of Ages](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

What a glorious truth that the God who created heaven and earth is also our friend in the person of Jesus...and friends live in peace – a profound and "forever" peace made possible by Jesus. Take as much time as need need to catch up with the brothers and sisters around you and make a point to welcome any who might be new to our community.

[Calvary](#)

// Benediction //

Whether you know it or not, you have received from God this morning. He has spoken to you and ministered to you. As we go from here, let's go living like those who have the promise of a life after death and who have the joy of sharing the gospel with many this week.

God be with you!

C: And Also with you!

REFLECT ON LAST SUNDAY

// Call to Worship //

L: Whether we are old or young, whether we are first-time or longtime worshipers, whether we come full of doubts or confidence, joy or sorrow, in this place we are all family, because of what Jesus did for us on the cross. Welcome to all of you today!

We give thanks to you, God our Father, for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning, for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinner. We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness, and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love.

C: Though we are sinners, you are faithful and worthy of all praise. We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

[Lead Me To The Cross](#)

[You Have Redeemed My Soul](#)

// Prayer of Confession //

L: There is no other god like you—none more worthy to be loved with all our heart and soul, mind and strength. You know our weaknesses, and do not despise them. You know our brokenness, and will not shame us. You know our sorrows, and are filled with compassion. You know our foolishness, and promise more grace.

With our eyes fixed on Jesus—the author and perfecter of our faith, we ask you to forgive us.

Forgive us hurting people we love by our impatience and irritation, by our lack of listening and our unkept promises.

Forgive us for thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought, and thinking of others less compassionately than they deserve.

Forgive us for giving more power to what others say about us in public, than what you say about us in heaven.

Forgive us for being too busy to behold your beauty in your Word; meditate on your mercies in Christ, and hear you sing to us in the gospel.

C: Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Our hope is built on nothing less, nothing more and nothing other, than Jesus' blood and righteousness. We trust in his finished work, not in our vain promises. Amen

// Assurance of Pardon //

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

L: Does your sin keep God from loving you

C: No! Because of Jesus we are forgiven and loved!

[Nothing But the Blood](#)

// Passing of the Peace //

As God has greeted us with his peace, so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other. Take a moment to welcome those around you.

[My Rock and My Redeemer](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

// Benediction //

L: Full of the love of God,

You are now sent to love others and tell them the great news about Jesus

Go in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you

C: And Also with you!

FURTHER REFLECTION & STUDY

Scripture to Meditate On:

Galatians 2:16 We know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Reflection Questions:

- In our Call to Worship we said together: "Though we are sinners, ☩you are faithful and worthy of all praise. We praise you, great God,☩in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen." What do you have to specifically praise God for? How has he been, and continues to be, good to you?
- Why is "Gospel plus" so dangerous?
- How do you find yourself adding extra requirements to the gospel? What are they?
- Unity within the church is extremely important because the gospel is the story of being united to God and one another in Christ. Is there anything you have done that has caused disunity in the church? God invites you to repent of that, ask others for forgiveness where necessary, and receive forgiveness and righteousness in Christ.
- What does Paul mean in I Cor 10:23 when he says- *"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.*
- At the end of the sermon Ryan talked about our church living out three identities- Family, Missionaries, and Disciples. How could you live out one of those identities this week?

Suggested Resources

Articles: [Christ is Enough](#) by Jessica Thompson

[The Beast of "Should" at the Zoo](#) by Chad Bird

[Ten Thoughts on Law and Gospel from Gerhard Forde](#) by Brandon Hanson

[Eating Together: Welcome to the Gospel Feast](#) by Brad Watson

Devotional: [How to Believe](#) by Steve Brown

Videos: [Gospel Fluency in Action](#) with Jeff Vanderstelt

[Why is Theology Important? Is Jesus Enough?](#) With Jackie Hill-Perry

Book: [The Christian Life: Cross or Glory?](#) By Steven Hein

Song: [Down There By The Train](#) by Dustin Kensrue

RESOURCES FOR KIDS (and Parents)

Video: [5 Questions You Must Ask Your Kids](#) with Paul Tripp

[New City Catechism Question #13](#)

Q: Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

A: Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Questions for Kids

- How can we be saved?
- Does being “saved” mean we don't sin any more? What should we do when we realize we have sinned?
- As a church we say we are a “family” who are you really thankful is part of our church family?
- This week Pastor Ryan talked about how we are missionaries, that means we have been sent by God to share the gospel with others. We also read about the Apostle Paul who said he would do anything he had to do so he could be friends with people and share the gospel with them. What do you think we can do to be better friends with our neighbors and share the gospel with them?

Read together Romans 10:9 “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Pray together: God, we know that Jesus is all we need to be saved, but sometimes we forget that and we think we need to hide from you or do good things to make up for our sins. Remind us that we are only saved by believing that Jesus died for our sins and raised from the dead to give us new life. We also thank you that we get to be family with our church. Help us to know other people in our church and love them. We also thank you that we know the good news that Jesus saves and that you help us to share that message with our friends and neighbors. People like _____ and _____ and _____.

Thank you Jesus, we love you!

Amen.

Sermon Review

Title: Preaching the Gospel, Planting Churches

Text: [Acts 15:1-16:5](#)

Watch: <https://cccplainfield.org/sermon/jesus-is-enough/>

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

Sermon Overview:

Acts 15 is a pivotal chapter in the book of Acts (and the history of the church) as the decision is made that the only thing required for salvation is faith in Christ.

Sermon Summary: Jesus + Nothing = Everything

There are now a bunch of people who are part of the church who aren't from a Jewish background. In Antioch specifically we have a very diverse church of non-Jewish and non-religious people. They respond to the good news of the gospel by believing in Jesus, but Paul and Barnabas soon hear that there are some from Jerusalem who are instructing them that they must be circumcised and follow the Jewish law in order to be saved. Paul and Barnabas strongly disagree, they soon gather with some others in Jerusalem to talk through this issue together. This is known as the "Jerusalem Council." Then they write a letter to the church at Antioch letting them know that the only requirement for salvation is faith in Christ and give them a few other instructions that will aid in the relationship with the Jewish believers.

We'll look at three things from Acts 15- How we are freed by the gospel, constrained by love, and all for the sake of mission

Freed by the Gospel

Some of the Jewish believers are "unless you are circumcised according to the customs of Moses, you cannot be saved (15:1) and "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses" (15:5).

It's tempting to think that these statements are just a "little off" or that they have just "tweaked" the message a bit. But seeing the response of Paul and Barnabas ("no small discussion and debate with them" 15:2) and the fact that it was worthy of a special council to address the issue, it doesn't seem like a small thing. The problem with this "adding to the gospel" is that it means the work of Jesus was not sufficient to bring us back to God.

Peter then puts it quite plainly when he says: "But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will" (Acts 15:11). Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. Nothing can be added to it!

There are two sources to this "adding to the gospel"- a high view of self and a low view of sin

High View of Self

Notice what the way the law is referred to in v.10- "Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?" What they are saying is that the law ("yoke") was never able to be obeyed by anyone. It's purpose (as understood by the Apostles) was to reveal our sinfulness. If it was able to be accomplished we wouldn't need a Savior, for we could have accomplished righteousness on our own!

Low View of Sin

The problem is not merely our actions, as is stated in 15:8-9, “And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.” The need is for a cleansed heart. Cleansed from the sin that has infected it. This does not come about through circumcision nor through behavior modification. It only comes through faith in Christ (see 15:9). Sin is much deeper than mere wrong actions, those actions merely show there is a root issue in the heart (it loves itself more than God or others).

Constrained by Love

Even in the midst of the freeing good news that it is only by faith in Christ that one is saved, the council does recommend four things to these non-Jewish Christians- abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from what has been strangled, and from blood (15:19-20). Now doesn't that sound like a contradiction- “You don't need anything but faith.... But do these things..” But this is not an issue of being made right with God, but rather an issue of unity with brothers and sisters. In order to gather around a table with the Jewish Christians, it would be helpful if the non-Jewish Christians didn't come flopping a rare steak on the table to feast upon. It wasn't that it was wrong, it just would have been a little bit of a culture shock to the Jewish believers and could cause a lack of unity. Therefore, in order to promote unity, the recommendation is to be constrained by love for others and sacrifice your freedom for the sake of a brother or sister. Paul put it well in Galatians 5:13- For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

All for the Mission

The last interesting (and seemingly contradictory) event comes in the beginning of chapter 16 when Paul takes young Timothy on the missionary journey with him, but because Timothy is only “half” Jewish (his father was Greek) Paul has him circumcised. Remember, it was just stated that this wasn't necessary, so why have it done to Timothy? The answer is “for the sake of the mission”. In other words, Paul wanted any possible obstacle out of the way so the gospel could be received. If the fact that Timothy was not a “real Jew” would keep the Jews from hearing the message of the gospel from him, then Paul wanted to remove that barrier. This is likewise our call as the church of Jesus Christ! Listen to Paul in 1 Cor 9:19-23-

[19] For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. [20] To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. [21] To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. [23] I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

As a FAMILY of MISSIONARY DISCIPLES we-

Lay down our preferences in order to love one another (family), we conform our lives for the sake of spreading the good news (missionaries), and we continually learn about what Jesus accomplished and why it matters (disciples).

Jesus is everything. Jesus is enough. Jesus + Nothing = Everything. Now let's make sure everyone knows that.