



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Discovery 201** – We are excited to hold our next Discovery 201 class on Sunday, 3/26 at 3pm. This class covers Spiritual Maturity. Sign up on the App, Website or by stopping by the Info Center in the Lobby. Contact Rene Snyder at rsnyder@southwinds.org with questions.
- **Easter Eggs Needed** – 1,000's of plastic eggs with individually wrapped candy needed for the Kids' Easter Egg Hunt! The Got Eggs? graphic on the App will take you directly to Amazon. Buy and send your candy selection directly to Southwinds Church. Or buy your pre-stuffed eggs and drop them off at a bucket in the Kids' Area or the WC Lobby. Contact cgarth@southwinds.org with questions.
- **Good Friday Service Volunteers Needed** – We need greeters, ushers, childcare, and additional volunteers for this years' service. Please reach out to Chris Martinez at (760) 685-5152; cmartinez@southwinds.org or Teresa Colon at 408-896-3558 or mrsteresacolon@gmail.com.

MY STORY

"If we're timid about it, if we don't walk through open doors to talk about it, it may be that we don't love the gospel, or the God of the gospel, because we rejoice in the things we love. We talk about the things we're passionate about, right?" - **Michael Nolen**

We do we like to talk to people about most?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

Have A Volunteer Read: Romans 1:16-17

Point #1: God's righteousness: SOMETHING GOD IS.

“God is righteous. Everything he does is right and just and good. Righteousness is an attribute of God’s character. The Greek word translated righteousness in a physical sense has the idea of “being straight,” or in a moral sense, “being right.” He always and only does what is right. God’s righteousness means he’s incapable of unrighteousness, of wrong, of injustice. It means he has a settled hostility in his heart towards that which is unrighteous and unjust.” – **Michael Nolen**

Why is it important to understand that God is incapable of unrighteousness, of wrong and of injustice?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Isaiah 61:10, Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 3:20-24, 28; 4:3-5; 5:17; Philippians 3:9

Point #2: God’s righteousness: SOMETHING GOD GIVES.

“Righteousness is a gift God credits to those who put their faith and trust in him. We see this even in the OT. When we get to Romans 4, we’ll hear about Abraham who believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness (Romans 4:3). He was declared righteous before God, given the gift of righteousness simply on the basis of his faith in God. The righteousness of God is God’s righteous way to declare unrighteous people righteous by their faith in Jesus.” – **Michael Nolen**

“The heart of the gospel is removal of sin and bestowal of a righteous status with God, based on faith, not your works. That’s justification by faith. **The heart of the gospel is that God forgives AND gives.** He declares you righteous with his very own righteousness, so that in his presence, if you’re in Christ today, you stand forever completely, securely, perfectly accepted by God... as you are at your best and at your worst. That’s the gospel.” - **Michael Nolen**

How have people misunderstood the gospel by trying to earn favor from God through works?

“Our righteousness is counterfeit righteousness. It doesn’t matter if it’s Grade A, B, or C. Our righteousness is always a knockoff, and it cannot pass God’s inspection. He is the ultimate counterfeit recognition specialist. He sees all our attempts to earn our way into relationship with him, earn our acceptance, our salvation, our righteousness... all our attempts to be accepted by our own performance or good works is design theft. It’s us counterfeiting something that God takes no delight in... When he’s offering us this trademark version of his righteousness credited to our account.” – **Michael Nolen**

Why is it difficult to receive the gospel?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Romans 5:1

Point #3: God’s righteousness: CHANGES EVERYTHING.

“This gospel is the only thing that can cause you to genuinely love God, and be at peace with him. Insecurity is the enemy of intimacy. You’ll never feel confident in a relationship with someone when you don’t know how they feel about you. They just don’t believe it. Insecurity is the enemy of intimacy. But... if you really embrace this gospel, and this opportunity for this intimate relationship with God, it will overthrow every insecurity you have. God declares us righteous without compromising his righteousness.” – **Michael Nolen**

**How has the gospel created intimacy with God in your life?
Has this intimacy lead to change in your life?**

APPLICATION

“The sins don't get swept under the rug. They get nailed to the cross.” – Michael Nolen

Spend time this week reflecting on areas of your life that need to be nailed to the cross and share with someone for accountability.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS