



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Baptism** – Our next baptism is Sunday, May 7th at 3pm. If you or anyone in your family would like to take the next step in your faith journey, register on the App, website or in the Lobby. Contact Rene Snyder at rsnyder@southwinds.org with questions.
- **VBS** – Vacation Bible School Registration is now open online and you can save \$5 until the end of April. Dates are June 11-15th from 6-8:30pm for kids 4-years old through 6th grade. All kids welcome – invite your friends! Sign up now if you want to **VOLUNTEER!** We need lots of adults & teens!
- **Bingo de Mayo** – A Life Groups favorite is back and we are inviting you and your family to join us for a FUN filled, FOOD filled, FELLOWSHIP gathering! Join us Wednesday, May, 3rd from 6:30-8pm, for a Mariachi Band, prizes, food, and fun. Register: Online or in person in the Lobby. Contact Talanna Williams: twilliams@southwinds.org with questions.
- **Testimony Workshop** – In Mark 5:19 and Luke 8:39, Jesus tells the men he healed to go into the world and share what he did for them. Our stories shine hope on those who are lost or need encouragement – are you prepared to share yours? Join us for a start-to-finish, guided experience to understanding and writing your testimony of God’s love and grace. May 6th, 9am – 12pm in The Shed on campus. For more information, contact Mercedes Downing at (209) 229-3664.

MY STORY

What was your faith background growing up?

QUICK REVIEW

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

Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 3:21-26

Point #1: God’s give us HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

“But now... We’ve been hearing all about sin. Your sin. My sin. Our sin. But now... Paul begins to talk about our only hope. There is a massive shift in Romans here. But it’s more than just a shift in Paul’s argument. It’s a cosmic shift. Something new has happened in the universe. Never before. Never again. But now the righteousness of God has been manifested... Paul is saying that God has intervened.

In Jesus, God's righteousness has invaded the world. Paul is saying that the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus has changed everything. We had no hope, but now God has intervened."

– Michael Nolen

Now that God has intervened in your life, how does that give you hope?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Psalm 89:14

Point #2: We receive God's righteousness BY FAITH, NOT WORKS.

"That's why our only hope is to trust, to have faith. We receive salvation, or God's righteousness, by faith in Christ alone. Salvation is by faith in Christ alone. When we say salvation is by faith, it's not a generic faith. It is a faith in a particular person. We're saved by the object of our faith. Faith in Christ Jesus, and faith alone. Now, as James tells us in his book, that faith is never alone. Real faith is always accompanied by fruit. But faith is the root." – Michael Nolen

Why is it important to understand that we receive God's righteousness by faith and not through works?

Have Another Volunteer Read: Ephesians 2:8

Point #3: God's grace JUSTIFIES AND REDEEMS US.

"Justification is not a process, but a pronouncement. It's a legal declaration where God's righteousness is not infused, but imputed to us. In justification, God's righteousness is not infused into us, it is imputed, or credited, to us." – Michael Nolen

Discuss the difference between being infused (process by which righteousness is earned) vs imputed (to be credited, to us) with God's righteousness.

Have Another Volunteer Read:

Point #4: Christ's sacrifice PROPITIATES GOD'S WRATH.

"Propitiation means that God poured out on Jesus the righteous anger he had toward us. God's righteous anger toward sin is not a contradiction with his love, but a necessary corollary of it. Think about it. When you love someone, you hate the things that destroy them. If you love the cancer patient, you hate the cancer that destroys them. That's how God feels about our sin: Sin destroys his creation and the glory and righteousness which are the foundation of that universe, and us. So he hates—is angry—at sin. So Jesus stepped in the way to pay for it. By so doing, God demonstrated his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed".

– Michael Nolen

How is God's love for us significantly different than our love for others?

APPLICATION

Memory Verse: Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Memorize the memory verse and share with someone else.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS