

Lent Day 36

Tuesday April 11, 2017

Reading: Romans 15:7-13

7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed 9 and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

Reflection

In the movie City Slickers there is a wonderful scene where the self assured Cowboy, Curly is speaking to the anxious lead. Holding up one finger he says that the secret to life is this, just one thing. The secret to life is finding out what your one thing is and pursuing it whole heartedly. This is what Billy Crystal's character does and goes home happy.

Paul is saying a similar thing here in Romans. As Christians, our one thing is glorifying God together. Everything else is secondary. Everything God has done through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah has an eye to: 1) fulfilling his promises to Abraham, which in turn 2) fulfills his promises to all of creation, which leads to 3) a unity of the creation praising God the creator. This is what it is all about.

During lent we can get so focused on the condition of our own soul, or thinking about the cross that we can miss the bigger picture. There is a reason why God has acted in Christ in the first place — it is for his creation to worship him. If we were to go back to the beginning of Romans we would see that humanity's break down was summarized by idolatry — worshiping what was not God (the creation) rather than God (the creator). In Christ, this picture has been reversed and the new creation (the church) now made up of a unified humanity, Jew and Gentile, worship God together.

As we move out of Lent and into shadow of the cross and the sunshine of the resurrection, how is your life worshiping God. Does your participation in the church reflect this unified praise it is meant to? Worshiping God is your one thing.

Prayer

Creator God, who has remade us into the image of your son for the purpose of worship. Help us to accept each other in ways that demonstrate the power of your gospel and gives you the honour and worship you're due. Amen.