

Speaker Series 2024
Spirituality Seminar 2-part series on St. Paul – Part II
Jan 23, 2024
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Readings covered

1. Eph.5: 21 - 33
2. Rom. 5: 1 - 10
3. Rom. 8: 26 - 30
4. 1 Cor.11: 23 - 26
5. Phil. 4: 2 - 9
6. 1 Cor. 13

The Conversion of Paul

1. Acts 9: 1 - 19
2. Acts 22: 6 - 16
3. Acts 26: 12 - 18

Readings

1. Eph.5: 21 – 33

Wives and Husbands.

21 Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

23 For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body.

24 As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her

26 to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,

27 that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

28 So [also] husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29 For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church,

30 because we are members of his body.

31 “For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother

and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.”

32 This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

33 In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

2. Rom. 5: 1 - 10

Faith, Hope, and Love.

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God.

3 Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,

4 and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope,

5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly.

7 Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.*

8 But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

9 How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath.

10 Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

3. Rom. 8: 26 - 30

Destiny of Glory.

26 In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

27 And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

God's Indomitable Love in Christ.

28 We know that all things work for good for those who love God,⁴ who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

30 And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

4. 1 Cor.11: 23 - 26

Tradition of the Institution.

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread,

24 and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

25 In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

5. Phil. 4: 2 - 9

Live in Concord.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to a mutual understanding in the Lord.

3 Yes, and I ask you also, my true yokemate, to help them, for they have struggled at my side in promoting the gospel, along with Clement and my other co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Joy and Peace.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

5 Your kindness^{*} should be known to all. The Lord is near.

6 Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

7 Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.^{*}

9 Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

6. 1 Cor. 13

1 If I speak in human and angelic tongues* but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.

3 If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated,

5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth.

7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

9 For we know partially and we prophesy partially,

10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

11 When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

12 At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

13 So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Conversion of Paul

1. Acts 9: 1 – 19

Saul's Conversion.

1 Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest

2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way,² he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains.

3 On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him.

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

5 He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

6 Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do.

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one.

8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing;⁸ so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus.

9 For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.

Saul's Baptism.

10 There was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias, and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

11 The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight and ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is there praying,

12 and [in a vision] he has seen a man named Ananias come in and lay [his] hands on him, that he may regain his sight."

13 But Ananias replied, "Lord, I have heard from many sources about this man, what evil things he has done to your holy ones² in Jerusalem.

14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to imprison all who call upon your name.

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites,

16 and I will show him what he will have to suffer for my name."

17 So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit."

18 Immediately things like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. He got up and was baptized,

19 and when he had eaten, he recovered his strength.

2. Acts 22: 6 – 16

Paul's Defense before the Jerusalem Jews.

6 "On that journey as I drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from the sky suddenly shone around me.

7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'

8 I replied, 'Who are you, sir?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazorean whom you are persecuting.'

9 My companions saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who spoke to me.

10 I asked, 'What shall I do, sir?' The Lord answered me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told about everything appointed for you to do.'

11 Since I could see nothing because of the brightness of that light, I was led by hand by my companions and entered Damascus.

12 "A certain Ananias, a devout observer of the law, and highly spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,

13 came to me and stood there and said, 'Saul, my brother, regain your sight.' And at that very moment I regained my sight and saw him.

14 Then he said, 'The God of our ancestors designated you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the sound of his voice;

15 for you will be his witness* before all to what you have seen and heard.

16 Now, why delay? Get up and have yourself baptized and your sins washed away, calling upon his name.'

3. Acts 26: 12 - 18

King Agrippa Hears Paul.

12 "On one such occasion I was traveling to Damascus with the authorization and commission of the chief priests.

13 At midday, along the way, O king, I saw a light from the sky, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my traveling companions.

14 We all fell to the ground and I heard a voice saying to me in Hebrew, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goad.'

15 And I said, 'Who are you, sir?' And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

16 Get up now, and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness of what you have seen [of me] and what you will be shown.

17 I shall deliver you from this people and from the Gentiles to whom I send you,

18 to open their eyes* that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may obtain forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been consecrated by faith in me.