

Outline

Acts 26:18

Understand Guilt

Guilt:

- Destroys our confidence
- Damages our relationships
- Keeps us stuck in the past

Conviction is not Guilt

You are more than your past – Romans 8:1

Receive God's forgiveness – Hebrews 10:14

- God forgives instantly
- God forgives freely
- God forgives completely



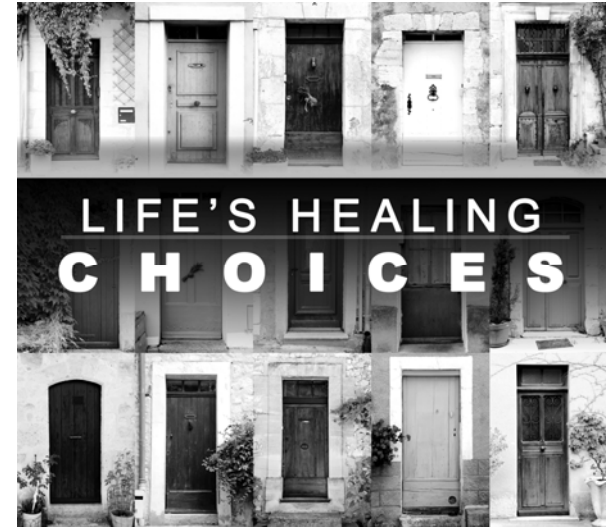
NICEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Come, Meet, Grow, Serve

CONNECT



Receive Forgiveness

Rev. Jeremy Smith — 9:30 & 11:02 a.m.

CONNECT

...in Community

This week, we are discussing taking the 'The Housecleaning Choice' which directs us to openly examine and confess our faults to ourselves, to God, and to someone we trust. This choice is all about coming clean and admitting our failures. Romans 3:23 tells us that we have all experienced failure and sin in our lives and have ultimately fallen short of God's glory. We can probably handle confessing our sins to ourselves and to God, but now we are asked to confess them to someone else. This is the choice God wants us to make.

meet

Has there ever been a time when a friend or relative decided to come clean with something that you thought was not serious? Share with the group without naming names. Jesus died so that we may live life in all its fullness, but we must first show Him the truth in our hearts. Notice that Matthew 5:8 does not say "Happy are the religious...". There are many who are religious who have not confessed their failures to themselves, God, or others. They may be saying "Don't! You can't! No!" However, Jesus is telling us "Do! You can! Yes!"

grow

What miraculous event was taking place in John 11:43-44? Think for a moment about the similarities between death and being bound. What did you discover? What did Jesus ask others to do after he shouted for Lazarus to come forward? How is this significant to our lives today?

In 1 John 1:9, we understand that God is faithful and forgiving if we do what? What will God do when we confess our sins to Him? Considering it is impossible to hide from God, why then do we allow our sin to separate us from Him?

How has God shown His love for us in Romans 5:8? When did God show that ultimate love? What are some other ways God loves us? How can we show our love to God in appreciation for the sacrifice of His Son Jesus?

In Hebrews 13:5, what does God say He will never do to us? Like a parent with a child, how can it be beneficial to let some painful mistakes happen for growth? Like a parent who is still faithful to their children, why can it seem like God has forgotten us when He lets painful mistakes happen in our lives?

serve

Take some time to think of two or three people you trust. Write their names down. Commit to praying for the courage and the strength to speak with one of them this week. Ask for God's guidance in helping you choose the person to call. Remember that when you risk honesty with another person, you also allow God to work to set you free.

CONNECT

...in Word

Notice the text | read the passage slowly and thoughtfully

Engage the truth | what do I see about God, His promise or command, life, sin, me

Apply to life | how does this passage apply to my life now

Respond to God | write a reflection, prayer, action, decision

Day 1 Romans 5:8 reminds us that while we were sinners, God loved us. How did God express that love? God is omniscient (all knowing) - He saw us while we were yet sinners while simultaneously seeing us as his saints. As you reflect upon His gift of spiritual liberation, what significance is there in understanding that God knows us from beginning to end?

Day 2 According to Philippians 2:12-13, what must we do in order to show the results of our salvation to others? If we are obedient, what promise can we look forward to? Why is it important to live a life pleasing to God?

Day 3 According to Romans 8:1, for whom is there no condemnation? Why is there condemnation for those who are non-believers? What are some ways we can thank God for Christ and His kindness?

Day 4 In Philippians 1:6, who began a good work in us? When will it be complete? How do we know God is still faithful even when we make mistakes or appear to be stagnant in our growth? What are some ways we see God's faithfulness in our life and the lives of others?

Day 5 Who is the "Yes" to all of God's promises in 2 Corinthians 1:20? Why don't many people understand that Christ is the "Yes" to all God's promises? How can we share with others the importance of Christ? What are some ways we can demonstrate Christ's power in God's promises?