

back to the WATER

A discussion series of Lee Memorial United Methodist Church 1/21/2018

discuss

Where, and how, do you confess Christ as your Savior? Have those closest to you (friends and family) heard your confession? your neighbors? co-workers?

Do you put your whole trust in the grace of God found in Jesus Christ? What does it mean to trust in the grace of God? How does this trust impact the way one thinks and acts?

Through baptism, we vow to serve Christ as Lord. What do servants owe their Lord?

Jesus says that we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). Are there other masters (lords) vying for your allegiance?

Paul, quoting the prophet Joel, proclaims that “all who call on the Lord’s name will be saved.” In his notes on this passage (Joel 2:32), John Wesley notes, in his *Notes on the Bible*, that we are delivered ‘either from those outward afflictions, or which is infinitely better from eternal miseries, which will swallow up the unbelieving world; and it will aggravate the ruin of those who perish, that they might have been saved on such easy terms.’ Is it then easy for a non-elect to repent and believe? May he not as easily pull the sun out of the firmament?”

Wesley’s comment raises an important question to ponder: why is it so hard for people to “call on the Lord’s name” and be saved? What is preventing people from this confession (see Romans 10:14-15, 17)?

scripture

Romans 10:8-13
Common English Bible

⁸ But what does it say? *The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*¹ (that is, the message of faith that we preach). ⁹ Because if you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and in your heart you have faith that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ Trusting with the heart leads to righteousness, and confessing with the mouth leads to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, *All who have faith in him won’t be put to shame.*² ¹² There is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord is Lord of all, who gives richly to all who call on him. ¹³ *All who call on the Lord’s name will be saved.*³

¹ Deuteronomy 30:14

² Isaiah 28:16

³ Joel 2:32

baptismal vows

from “Baptismal Covenant I” in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the Church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

next week

“committing to the church and professing the Christian faith”