

SERMON NOTES ♦ FEBRUARY 22, 2009
Finally—Some Good News!

SERMON TEXT

Romans 3:21-30 (New Living Translation)

²¹But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²²We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

²⁷Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is based on faith. ²⁸So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.

²⁹After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. ³⁰There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself only by faith, whether they are Jews or Gentiles.

NOTES

I. The most important "But now..." in history... (vv. 21-22)

II. How the good news works... (vv. 22-26)

III. How the good news doesn't work... (vv. 27-28)

IV. The scope of the good news... (vv. 29-30)

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Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

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Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

February 22, 2009 ♦ 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Welcome and Ritual of Friendship Clay Brown
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.
An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.
Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

Invocation Mendelssohn
Prelude: *Adagio in A flat*

Christy Floyd
Choral Call to Worship: *Praise To The Lord, The Almighty* arr: Wilberg
Chancel Choir

*Hymn #148: *Come, Thou Almighty King* ITALIAN HYMN
Anthem: *Dialogue for Bells* Wagner

Exaltation Ringers
Time with the Children Fred Coates
Call to Confession Tyler Domske

Unison Prayer of Confession
Sovereign God, we confess to you that our perspectives and actions are twisted by pride. We see ourselves as pure when in reality we are stained, and mighty when in reality we are weak. We have failed to live in your love. We have neglected to be just. We have turned away from your truth. God of mercy, forgive our sin, so we may serve you joyfully and fearlessly. Through Jesus Christ we pray; Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
*Response #34: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE SEALING OF THE WORD IN BAPTISM

Presentation **Katherine Anne Keener, Jaden Mariano Lopez**
Profession with the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer
Baptism
Blessing and Welcome

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

*Hymn #664: *Thy Word* Grant/Smith
Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6 Pew Bible, pp. 608-609
Trent Newell
New Testament Reading: Romans 3:21-30 Sermon Notes
Sermon: *Finally—Some Good News!* Clay Brown

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.
Giving of Tithes and Offerings
Anthem: *God So Loved the World* Palestrina
Chancel Choir

*Response #688: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (v. 1) SCHUMANN
We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
*Prayer of Dedication

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*Hymn #353: *Grace Greater than Our Sin* (vv. 1-2) MOODY
*Opportunities to Serve and Invitation to Discipleship Tyler Domske
*Charge and Benediction
*Response #353: *Grace Greater than Our Sin* (v. 3) MOODY
*Postlude: *How Firm A Foundation* arr: Hamlin

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and His saving grace, and for the many prayers of the congregation during my recent surgeries and recovery by Bryon and Shirley Crowley.

Recent Prayer Requests: Anita Teeter; Byron Crowley; Don Fair; Jeff Stonestreet; Lottie Massey; Holly Lemons' father; Lynne Streetman's parents; Rebecca Auten; Fred Hoke; Mary Voils Aven; Bob Davidson; Terry Stevens; Cathy Brown's parents; David Ortwein, Ken Bemd's nephew; Martha Andrews; EO3SW Laban Thompson; the Kortright family and all those who have recently lost loved ones; those who have lost their jobs recently.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Lucile McClure in the recent death of her brother and to Beverly Chappell in the recent death of her brother-in-law.

2009 Congregational Directories are available at the rear of the sanctuary and in the parlor.

We have a new semi-monthly Bible Study called the "Underground Bible Study," targeting our PYF parents, though all are welcome. It will be a version of the Bible study that we do with the youth each week. Study after study has shown that parents have the most impact and influence on their children, and this is a great way for you not only to be involved in a Bible study, but also to have a way to discuss that with our youth. The study will meet in the youth room on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 6:45-7:30 p.m., with a guarantee to end on time (you can walk out if it doesn't!). *All are welcome (even non-parents)!* Contact Tyler at tyler@moorevillefirstpres.org for more details.

Saints Alive Trip: The Saints Alive group is planning a trip to the Southern Spring Home & Garden Show in Charlotte on Thursday, March 5. The group plans to leave at 9:00 a.m. and return by 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$7.50. Please contact Ellen Auten to make a reservation.

Catechism Club: Catechism Club participants will meet with their mentors tonight at 5:30 p.m. for recitation of questions 97-125.

The Mooresville Soup Kitchen invites you to our 2nd Soup Supper on Friday, February 27, from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. As a part of our community, you share in our pride and our mission. Please join us as we celebrate our first year in our new home. For \$7.00 you will get a bowl of delicious soup, bread, homemade desserts and beverage. Tickets can be purchased at The Mooresville Soup Kitchen or at the door that night. 704-660-9010.

Calendar for February 22 – March 1, 2009

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
4:00 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:00 p.m. - Omega PYF
5:30 p.m. - Catechism Club with Mentors
6:30 p.m. - Mission Trip Parent's Information Meeting
7:00 p.m. - Session

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the Coates' home

Tuesday:

Wednesday: **Ash Wednesday – Lent begins**
11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Cartoon night*
6:15 p.m. - HS Supper Club @ Zaxby's
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers

Saturday: 6:30 p.m. - Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet

Sunday 3/1: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry in the Parlor
4:00 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:00 p.m. - Omega PYF
5:30 p.m. - Catechism Club

This is the last Sunday to register for Lent In The Living Room: Sign-up in the parlor *today* for the group of your choice, based on your preferences for date, time, and location. The theme of this year's "Lent in the Living Room" study and sermon series is "**On the Road to the Cross,**" a look at the Passion of Jesus in Mark's Gospel. Our method is simple: we will meet first in our small groups once during the week to discuss the passage, and then we'll hear a sermon on the following Sunday about that passage. The chart below may help you follow this pattern:

WHEN GROUPS MEETWHEN SERMON PREACHED

Week of Feb. 22-28.....	March 1 (1 st Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 1-7.....	March 8 (2 nd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 8-14.....	March 15 (3 rd Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 15-21.....	March 22 (4 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 22-28.....	March 29 (5 th Sunday in Lent)
Week of Mar. 29—Apr. 4.....	April 5 (Palm Sunday)