

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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At The Cross

With People Who Were There

GROWTH GUIDE



Handout: 03/18/18

Study: 03/25/18

You and Me!

James Montgomery Boice, in his commentary on Romans, tells the story of a young Russian—the son of a close friend of Czar Nicholas—who was caught stealing from the czar. As treasurer of a border fortress of the Russian army, the young man was to manage the czar’s money and dispense wages to the troops. But he began gambling and trying to cover his losses by borrowing from the army treasury.

One day he heard that a government auditor was coming to examine the books. He sat down and added up what he had taken. It was a huge amount. He emptied out his own resources, subtracted it from what should have been in the account and noted the great discrepancy. Under the amount due, he wrote: “A great debt; who can pay?” He couldn’t, and he knew no one who could help him. So he drew his revolver and decided to kill himself at midnight.

But as he waited for the clock to strike, he fell asleep, and while he slept, Czar Nicholas paid a surprise inspection visit. He saw the books, the despairing note and the revolver, and he realized that the young man had betrayed his trust. But rather than arrest the young man, he had mercy on him. He stooped and wrote something next to the man’s note and quietly left.

When the young man awoke, he again picked up the gun and was about to pull the trigger when he noticed something. Next to his note, “A great debt; who can pay?” was a single word: Nicholas. And the next morning, a bag of coins arrived from Nicholas that covered the exact amount owed.

Do you see yourself in this story? Do you see that before your Heavenly Father you have been caught in the act—that you are guilty of serious crimes? You are a sinner (as we all are), and you deserve to die. Our greatest enemy is not terrorism or disease or racism. It’s sin—our constant inclination to rebel against God. Because of sin, we are guilty, and because of sin, we have no rest in this life. Can you identify with the Apostle Paul, who cried out in his letter to the Romans, “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24).

Yet Paul’s letter also contains the greatest message man has ever heard: In spite of our sin, in spite of our ongoing struggle with sin, even though our best behavior is mucked up with the filth of sin, God does not condemn us!

How can this be? Here is how: In Romans 3, Paul writes that all the punishment for our sin fell on Jesus Christ. It isn’t that God is an old fogey who simply forgot our sin. No, justice was done. The full penalty for our sin was paid—by Christ.

The essence of the Christian Gospel is that Jesus Christ has done something for us. Most specifically, He died for us. This is precisely what the Apostle Peter says in 1 Peter 2:21—“Christ also suffered for you.”

Christ died as our substitute. Here’s how the Apostle Peter put it: “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

Source: John MacArthur

KEY VERSE

I Peter 2:24

“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” NKJV

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: I Peter 2:21-25

Introduction

1. Describe a time when you or a loved one suffered.
2. If someone asked you why Jesus had to die, what would you tell them?

Tuesday: I Peter 2:22; John 1:29; Hebrews 9:11-15

The Righteousness in Jesus' Suffering

3. Why is it important that Jesus never sinned?
4. What made the sacrifice of Jesus superior to the sacrifices in the Old Testament?

Wednesday: I Peter 2:23; Psalm 98:7-9

The Reliance of Jesus' Suffering

5. How did Jesus respond to His Suffering?
6. What does it mean that God is a righteous judge? What does it mean to commit your life to Him?

Thursday: I Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:4-6; Hebrews 9:22

The Results From Jesus' Suffering

7. Describe the suffering that Jesus had to endure.
8. What did Jesus accomplish for us?

Friday: I Peter 2:25; Colossians 2:13-14

The Response to Jesus' Suffering

9. In this sermon series, we have seen how the people who were physically at the cross responded to the suffering of Jesus. What response do you have to crucifixion of Jesus?
10. Can you relate to the analogy of being a sheep who went astray? Describe how you returned to the Shepherd.
11. Who in your life needs to hear the good news that Jesus bore our sin on the cross so that we might live?