

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

THE PATH TO THE CROSS, part 3
Pastor Andrew Burns
Message from Sunday, April 5, 2026

Opening Prayer

Begin by thanking God for His grace, the resurrection of Jesus, and the gift of righteousness we have received through Christ.

Key Scriptures

- **Matthew 28:5-10** - The Resurrection
- **Romans 1:16** - The Power of the Gospel
- **John 3:16** - God's Love and Salvation
- **2 Corinthians 5:21** - The Great Exchange
- **Hebrews 4:14-16** - Boldly Approaching God's Throne

Main Takeaways

1. The Gospel is About What Jesus Has Done, Not What We Do

The good news is not about our performance, our repentance rituals, or our self-improvement. It's about Jesus' finished work on the cross.

2. Salvation is a Free Gift Received by Grace through Faith

Salvation comes by grace through faith alone. We don't earn it, maintain it, or deserve it—we simply receive it.

3. We Are Made Righteous Through Christ

Our righteousness is not based on our behavior but on Christ's sacrifice. We have been given His righteousness as a gift.

4. Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love

No sin, no past, no failure can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).

5. We Can Approach God Boldly

Because of Jesus, we have constant access to God's presence without fear or condemnation.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Gospel

1. How would you explain the gospel in one or two sentences to someone who has never heard it?
2. The sermon stated, "The gospel has very little to do with you." What does that mean? How does that challenge or encourage you?
3. Read Romans 10:13 and Luke 23:39-43 (the thief on the cross). What do these passages teach us about the simplicity of receiving salvation?

The Great Exchange

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:21. What is the "great exchange" that happened at the cross? How does understanding this change the way you view yourself?
2. Why do you think many Christians struggle to accept that they are truly righteous in Christ?
3. The sermon mentioned that our righteousness is "not of you, but of God in Christ Jesus." How does this truth free us from performance-based religion?

Grace and Righteousness

1. What is the difference between "living right before God" and "the position of righteousness" we've been given? Why is it important not to confuse the two?
2. Read Hebrews 10:14. What does it mean that we are "forever completely cleansed and perfected"? How should this affect our daily lives?
3. The sermon mentioned that even the worst person in jail who receives Jesus is just as righteous as a pastor in the pulpit. How does this truth challenge our thinking about worthiness and hierarchy in the church?

Nothing Can Separate Us

1. Read Romans 8:38-39. What are some things people believe can separate them from God's love? How does this passage address those fears?
2. The sermon said, "There is nowhere you can go to escape His grace." Share a time when you felt distant from God. What brought you back to understanding His unchanging love?

Approaching God Boldly

1. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What does it mean to approach God's throne "boldly and fearlessly"? How is this different from how people approached God in the Old Testament?
2. How does knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells in you permanently confirm your righteous standing before God?

Personal Reflection

(Allow 2-3 minutes of silent reflection before sharing)

- Is there an area of your life where you're trying to earn God's approval rather than resting in His grace?
- Are you identifying with your past failures or with Christ's righteousness when you think about your standing before God?
- What would change in your life if you truly believed you could approach God without fear or shame?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one or more of the following to practice this week:

1. **Memorize a Grace Scripture:** Choose one verse from the sermon (Romans 10:13, 2 Corinthians 5:21, or Hebrews 4:16) and commit it to memory.
2. **Share the Gospel:** Share the simple gospel message with at least one person this week—focusing on what Jesus has done, not what they need to do.
3. **Practice Bold Prayer:** Each day this week, come before God in prayer with confidence, thanking Him for your righteous standing in Christ and bringing your requests without fear.

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for:

- The resurrection of Jesus
- The free gift of salvation
- Our permanent righteousness in Christ
- Bold access to God's presence
- The indwelling Holy Spirit
- God's unchanging love and grace

Additional Resources

- For Further Study: Read the entire chapters of Romans 5, Romans 8, and Hebrews 10
- Recommended Reading: "The Gospel in Ten Words" by Paul Ellis or "Grace, the Forbidden Gospel" by Andre Rabe

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 19 - Communion: The Meal That Heals
- If you've never been Water Baptized, registration is now open.
- Intro to Cornerstone Life registration is open
- Our Ladies Spring Event is May 2. Registration is open!

