

VII TRINITY 2022

SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

FATHER CRAIG LOONEY

ROMANS 6.19-23 ST. MARK 8.1-9

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Dear Friends,

It's time for some plain speak. I'm going to talk to you in everyday language you will understand. So listen up!

We all know we have been set free from sin by Jesus Christ. It has come to my attention some members of the Church are saying since we now have new life in Christ...freed from the consequences of sin...it no longer matters how we conduct ourselves. We can behave any way we want...even doing those things we know are wrong.

My friends...let me correct that way of thinking. Our new life in Jesus frees us to do what is right and pleasing to God. Why would we want to reverse course...and go back to the way things were? Let's think about that for a moment.

Yes...before we heard the Good News about Jesus Christ...we were not in a right relationship with God. We did not enjoy the new life we now have in Jesus...new life that frees us to do God's will.

We were once traveling an endless dark road that seemed to go nowhere except Sin City. It was as if we were forced to watch a really bad movie...and we were the actors in the movie. We were slaves chained to the Sin Desk...and sin pays it's own wages...death and separation from God and those we love.

In the real world wages are what we earn. We get paid by our employer for the work we do. If we do our work well we get invited back to work the next day and earn more wages so we can pay the rent or mortgage, buy food and clothes, pay the insurance, and support the Parish.

God's gift of everlasting life isn't payment for the work we do. It's free...but don't think what we do in this life doesn't matter...it does. We need to act like people set free from the stranglehold of sin...and embrace a life of servants to God and others.

Heaven isn't a paycheck from God for services rendered...it's his free gift to us because he loves us and wants to share eternity with us. While heaven is free...it does come with a condition...we must pray and work to stay away from dark things and follow the Light of Christ.

There is no question times can be rough on all of us. We want to see the Church grow and prosper. We want to see our hard work during this lifetime pay off. That's why it's especially important we try to do the right thing...at all times. We don't want to do things that bring shame to ourselves or to Christ's Church.

Jesus paid a heavy price for our freedom from sin, and he did so willingly and without any conditions on his part. We don't have to wait until we get to heaven to enjoy everlasting life. We can begin enjoying it right now, this very moment.

Let me repeat what I said earlier. Sin pays it's own wages...death and separation from God and those we love. God's free gift is eternal life through his Son, Jesus. That's the Good News...and it is something for us to cherish and hold on to.

I hope this helps clear things up. If you have any more questions just give me a call. The number is 1-800-ASK-PAUL. I'll help in any way I can.

In the meantime...listen up!

Love,
Your friend, Paul

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