

The Order of Worship

Opening Song	O For A 1,000 Tongues
A Prayer of Praise	Highlight Attribute <i>Love</i>
Scripture Reading	Romans 5:9-11
A Prayer for the Nations*	North Korea/Afghanistan
Affirmation of Faith	
Congregational Song	Complete in Thee
A Prayer for the Lost	<i>Who's Your One?</i>
Congregational Song	Nothing But the Blood
Sermon:	Romans 5:9-11

*Being discovered as a Christian is a death sentence in **North Korea**. If you aren't killed instantly, you will be taken to a labor camp as a political criminal. These inhumane prisons have horrific conditions, and few believers make it out alive. Everyone in your family will share the same punishment. Kim Jong-un is reported to have expanded the system of prison camps, in which an estimated 50,000-70,000 Christians are currently imprisoned.

In **Afghanistan**, living openly as a Christian is impossible. Christian converts face dire consequences if discovered. Essentially, converts have two options: flee the country or risk being killed. If their family discovers their conversion, the family, clan or tribe must save its "honor" by disowning the believer, or even killing them. Christians from a Muslim background can also be sent to a psychiatric hospital, because leaving Islam is considered a sign of insanity

Prayer Requests

Mary Ann Cooper	Barry Wilson
Josh Howard	Betty Hollowell
Teachers/Schools	Danette Roberson

Announcements

Fundraisers (See Margie Thompson for Details)

Sept 5 th	Casserole/Bake Sale
Oct 9 th	Rummage Sale
Nov 21 st	Farmer's Market
Dec 18 th	Christmas Cookie Walk
Jan 16 th	Chili Lunch
Feb 13 th	Valentine Cookie Cake

Explorer's Bible Study

Tuesday Mornings and Wednesday Evenings

The Brethren of Emory (See Joel Barrett)

Choir will begin in September.

Romans 5:9-11

Reminders from Romans 5

I. Rescued

Are you saved? There are several ways to answer that question. What Paul has in mind here is probably the _____. He speaks, specifically, to a rescue from **the** wrath of God. Is that something that moves us today?

Do we really concern ourselves with the wrath of God? Consider the illustration of the United States in world affairs. There was a time when the nations of the world viewed the United States as truly a superpower, albeit a benevolent one. After the events of the last few days and weeks, has that view changed?

A question for us here is does Jehovah change? Is the God of the Old Testament the God of the New? Is He the same God today that rained fire and brimstone on Sodom/Gomorrah? What if what it says in Scripture about Him is true?

II. Reconciled

If we believe what Paul said in verses 6-10 about us, that we were helpless-godless-sinners-enemies, then for us to stand in His presence, something must _____. Have you ever reconciled a bank statement? The Greek word for reconcile is

actually a financial term. Eventually, the term began to be used to describe a relationship between people. This word is _____ used of God. He has done nothing offensive, that's all on us.

Paul understood this concept of reconciliation quite well. When a runaway slave came to him, he alerted Onesimus about it. More than likely, Philemon had stolen on his way out and cost Onesimus more than money. The penalty for a runaway slave was death. As you look at the story, there's a relational break between Philemon and Onesimus. There was a need for reconciliation.

III. Rejoicing

The final R this morning reveals a great deal about us. A clear mark of being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is your ability to rejoice in all circumstances.

We saw in verse 2 Paul rejoicing where he points us to our hope in God's glory. In verse 11, our rejoicing is directed to the person of God, the One Who works His will in us.

Going back the story of Onesimus/Philemon for one last moment. Paul understood the relationship had to be reconciled, he saw that Philemon had stolen from Onesimus. Notice that Paul asked Onesimus to put on his account whatever Philemon owed.

Today: Let's rejoice that our reconciliation is based wholly on the work of Jesus Christ.