BYOB&B: Thinking Faithfully Out Loud

A Bible Study sponsored by: First Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church, Faith Presbyterian Church,

Monmouth College Chaplain's Office

Session 3: Think Faithfully Out Loud about how we are At-One-Ment with God

Tuesday, October 21

Scripture: Romans 3:9-26 "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God ..."

What is Paul's assumption about our relationship with God?

What is Paul's remedy for this assumption about our relationship with God?

Who is included in Paul's assumption and who is included in Paul's remedy?

Connecting Scripture to today

The Bible is not an encyclopedia. We have more questions because of what the authors wrote than we have answers from what the authors wrote. Yet, we often assume the Bible has clear answers.

What do we assume the Bible tells us about our relationship with God?

What Bible passages help us understand our relationship with God?

What do we turn to when the Bible is not so clear to help us better understand our relationship with God?

Who is the authority that ultimately defines our relationship with God?

Definitions as we begin this conversation

Sin (broad concept) Atonement

Sin (individual act)

Justification

The Fall Righteousness

Original Sin Sanctification

Law Redemption

Judgment Reconciliation

Repentance Forgiveness

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Ransom Atonement

Penal Substitutionary Atonement

Satisfaction Atonement

Christus Victor Atonement

Moral Influence Atonement

Scapegoat Atonement

Thinking Theologically about our relationship with God

How might different theological systems help us identify how we think theologically about our relationship with God?

> Consider theological systems—Theology of the Cross, Theology of Glory, Prosperity Gospel, Christian Nationalism, Hermeneutic Privilege of the Poor, Answers in Genesis

Atonement theories are about as diverse and numerous as there are Christian denominations. Each theory has some grounding in a verse, a passage, a whole book of the Bible ... yet none are the official "This is absolutely correct". No one author, no one book of the Bible clearly defines their own position. And often times, differing authors and books will contract one another. Thinking Faithfully Out Loud therefore means recognizing the overlapping spaces of these theories, and honoring the space where we each find ourselves as we explore what this relationship with God means for us while remembering to not weaponized our own theory against another.

Closing Prayer