

ALWAYS CHOOSE HOPE

Dr. Scott E. Koenigsaecker, Sequim Community Church

April 18, 2021 • Romans 3:23-24 & Philippians 2:12-13

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We need to admit our faults and failures and admit that we could use some help.
- B. God helps us by changing us.

For God (the Holy Spirit) is working in you giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.

– Philippians 2:13

It's the process of Sanctification which follows our Regeneration (we are saved from the penalty of sin: justification).

I. WE HAVE TO CHOOSE TO SEE GOD FOR WHO HE REALLY IS.

- A. Is God a condemning God who is out to punish us?

Who then will condemn us? No one! For He is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God pleading for us there in heaven.

– Romans 8:34

- B. The opposite is true.

But you, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

– Psalm 86:15

- C. God knows life is difficult and hurtful and that we need comfort.

Blessed are the those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

– Matthew 5:4

II. WE HAVE TO CHOOSE TO SEE OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE.

- A. We are broken, cracked — missing a piece of the puzzle of life.

For all have sinned and we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

– Romans 3:23

- B. We practice "hurtful hiding" from our real self, from others and God.

But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be made known.

– Luke 12:2

You can't keep your true self hidden forever; before long you'll be exposed. You can't hide behind a religious mask forever; sooner or later the mask will slip and your true face will be known.

– Luke 12:3 (The Message)

- C. *I (God) have loved you with an everlasting love. So, I will continue to show you my kindness.*

– Jeremiah 31:3

God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins.

– Romans 3:24

III. WE HAVE TO CHOOSE TO BELIEVE GOD CAN AND WILL CHANGE US.

- A. Initially, we have a negative view of inner change.
- B. It's not about our effort but God's ability.

For it is God who is at work within you, giving you the will and the power to achieve His purpose.

– Philippians 2:13 (Phillips Translation)

CONCLUSION:

