

EAST CAMBRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

"A first century church in the 21st century"

Bible Reading Plan

Week 12

- Deut 6-9; *Luke 7*
- Deut 10-14; Ps 5; *Lk 8*
- Deut 15-18; Ps 115; *Lk 9*
- Deut 19-22; Ps 6; *Lk 10*
- Deut 23-26; *Lk 11*

Leading Services

Announcements: Larry L.

Morning:

Song Leader: Mike V.

Opening Prayer: Zack V.

Lord's Table: Brock G.

Asst By:

Closing Prayer: Richard L.

Evening:

Song Leader: Zack V.

Opening Prayer: Richard L.

Closing Prayer: Bill G.

Scripture Reading: Brock G.
(Matthew 8.1-13)

Sermons

AM: Each Will Give An Account
PM: Faith Is The Victory



Sin

"And the law came in besides, that the trespass might bound; but where sin abounded, grace did abound more exceedingly" (Romans 5:20).

God so loved a world where sin abounded (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). No accountable person is immune - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:28). Human wisdom could not pave the way to escape it (Jeremiah 10:23). Man, when seriously contemplating his sinfulness (and there are many more who don't), can only conclude, "Wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me out of the body of this death" (Romans 7:24).

The Bible affirms several truths with regard to where sin abounds.

Will you consider them with me

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Where sin abounds

THERE IS FREE WILL We are part of God's creation, distinguished because we are made in His image (Genesis 1:26-27), evolution, to the contrary notwithstanding. Adam and Eve sinned because they were tempted by the devil, enticed through lust and pride to make the wrong choice (Genesis 3:1-7). And, it is no different with us. There is before us two directions in life - one, toward heaven, the other, toward hell (Matthew 7:13-14), and we all make a choice which way we'll go (Luke 11:23; Joshua 24:15). Sin is not inherited, but a choice (Ezekiel 18:20; James 1:13-15).

THERE IS LAW "for until the law (before the law of Moses, DR), sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law" (Romans 5:13). What makes a thing a sin is realized in the fact it is a violation of God's law revealed to man. Being under law makes us accountable to God, and, man's refusal to acknowledge this accountability doesn't void it. Sin is "lawlessness" by either the doing of that which is wrong or the failure to do what is right (1 John 3:4; James 4:17). Thus, to affirm the abounding of sin, also affirms the presence of divine law (Romans 4:15; 5:13; 7:7-8).

THERE IS TIME Sin takes time. It takes time to be holy too. In our time are opportunities, either to thwart or use, depending on our mind set (Colossians 3:2). Carnally minded people use their time to "make provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof" (Romans 13:14). Spiritually minded folks will "work that which is good for all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

THERE IS GRACE And, in proportion to sin, grace did "much more abound". God's grace is the only remedy for our sin (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation from sin unto eternal life is "in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). By grace is the provision made of Jesus' blood shed on the cross for "the forgiveness of our trespasses" (Ephesians 1:7). The message of this salvation is conveyed in "the gospel of God's grace" (Acts 20:32), "instructing us" toward the life that pleases and glorifies God (Titus 2:11-14).

Which is it that "abounds" in your life? Sin or grace? Which dominates?

- Dan Richardson