

The Only Sure Path

Many are looking for a no-risk, hassle-free formula that will get them through life and absolutely guarantee the results. Most of us would jump at such an offer. Listen to this one. “In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death” (Proverbs 12:28). This is the Bible’s formula for eternal success—the only kind that matters. Life and immortality are promised if we take the path of righteousness.

The problem is that many people find this formula disagreeable. “Give me life and immortality, thank you, but forget the righteousness.” One journalist wrote that she found righteousness “boring.” Besides, righteousness doesn’t guarantee no risks and no hassles. Just look at those who have a reputation for righteousness. Many are poor. Many have an overactive conscience. Let’s just stick with what everyone else is doing and hope for the best.

The problem is that righteousness is the only formula that works. It’s the *only* thing guaranteed to produce life and immortality. Anything else that promises life is a fake. Take money. Take sex. Take drugs. Take fame. At first you may feel like you’re on top, but soon the thrill fades and a bigger dose is needed to get the old high. Or else you realize the emptiness will just grow worse and so you go to something else to relieve the ache. Only righteousness produces life and immortality—accompanied by peace.

But there’s another problem. No one has this righteousness. “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God” (Romans 3:10,11). Everyone is born sinful and antagonistic toward God. Some people *act* as though they are seeking God. They may go to church. They may do outwardly good things. But the God they claim to seek is not the God who reveals himself in his Son Jesus, but rather one that makes them satisfied with their own “righteousness.” The only righteousness that counts for anything in the sight of God is perfect righteousness, unmixed with any sinful defect. And *that* we simply do not have in ourselves.

But we can have it as a gift. Paul called all his previous moral efforts rubbish so that he could be found in Christ, “not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith” (Philippians 3:9).

Righteousness is the only sure path to life and immortality. Whose righteousness are you trusting in? Yours? Or Christ’s?

They Are... Children of the Resurrection.

Luke 20:36

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 368

“The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 80

“Lord, with Glowing Heart I’d Praise Thee”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD’S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 510

“Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 463

“A Debtor to Mercy Alone”

Sermon Text

Isaiah 34:1-17

Sermon

DRAW NEAR, O NATIONS, TO HEAR

THE LORD’S TABLE

*Hymn of Response # 426

“Till He Come!”

Celebrating the Supper

Hymn of Response # 305

“Arise, My Soul, Arise”

Congregation remains seated as an offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of this hymn.

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord’s Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Ephesians.

Today. We remember the Lord’s death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today. Our quarterly offering for the Deacons Fund will be received during the singing of hymn 305, following the Lord’s Supper. Please remain seated for the singing of the hymn and then stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri and pronouncement of the Lord’s Benediction.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.