



**LIFEWork**  
**for the week beginning**  
**May 5, 2019**  
**Jesus > my past**

Last week: Jesus is greater than my fears. This week: Jesus is greater than my past (or my present or my future or any other failed behaviors)

Please review your message notes and discuss with one another anything that especially impacted you from this week's message.

- For whom is our title not truth?

Yes, that's a loaded question. Technically it's not true for anyone. And just as technically, you might summarize it with this amazing summary that I heard one time:

"God has never lost a battle, but there are many that He has chosen to not participate in."

I am horrified that this is probably the most universal idea in the world today: "My past (my sin) is not that bad, so I'm not worried about my standing before God if He exists."

To address it this week, let's use Paul's letter to the Romans and study a concept that all Christians live under but is important to review, be well versed in, and be able to share with those not yet experiencing it.

The most important thing we can learn in life —far more important than short-term success, or material or physical comfort, or even satisfaction in human relationships—is how to be right with God. And how to be right with God (or 'justified') is exactly what Paul spent the first five chapters of Romans speaking to. Every person has a terrible black hole of sin. And towards that sin, God rightly feels a terminal righteous anger. Into that war between God's wrath and our sin He has sent the ultimate warrior to carry out a necessary rescue mission. God sends His sinLESS son into the world to save us from our sin by his death on the cross.

But you will only realize amazing that is and how thankful we should all be if we see clearly how desperate our situation is. Nothing we did, or could do, is able to rescue us from the destruction that we all face.

God is love which He demonstrated in infinite mercy as He gave His Son to die in our place. This is the message of the first five chapters of Romans and is summarized in that "churchy" word we know as 'Justification.' 'Righteousness' and 'justification' come from the same word in Greek, and the basic meaning of the word is for something to be right and true, or to be declared right and true. Paul teaches us that the righteous God, who is righteously angry at my sin, tells me that because of Jesus' righteous work I can be declared righteous—that is, right with him, or 'justified'. Righteousness becomes mine by faith, i.e., living and thinking that Yahweh is God of my life and all that goes with that.

To review these, please read Romans 3:21-26 and 5:6-9.

- Now, to Romans 6. Read verses 1-4. How does the previous review lead to what Paul says in verse 1?
- What does it mean to be baptized into Jesus and his death in verse 3? Similarly, what, for us, is the purpose for being, "buried therefore with him by baptism in death?"
- Read verse 5-11. What did the death of Jesus achieve for us? How?
- By faith we are united with Christ. What do verses 5-11 tell us about our future? If that's true, then how should we think about ourselves in the present?

That is amazing, eternal, wonderful, bigger than my past, news for the believer. To embrace these truths in our lives, to believe them, to live them, is to be standing on the mountaintop of God's grace with joy and thanksgiving, and it is time to take in the view!

Prayer: Pray for and with each other, the big and the little stuff of life, and, that God would USE you and your life situations to impact people for eternal life WITH/IN Jesus.



**JESUS > my past**  
1 Timothy 1:12-17  
May 5, 2019 – Pastor D. R. Hilken

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The message of Christ for you is that what is good and precious in your life need never be lost, and what is evil and undesirable in your life can be fully eliminated.

The **CRISIS** of the Church at Ephesus

Timothy **COMMISSIONED** to lead through that crisis

Jesus = **STRENGTH** > my past or present or future

**“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”**

Christ Jesus came into **MY** world to save **ME**

Jesus = **GRACE** > my past or present or future

Grace ...

produces **THANKSGIVING**

creates a mindset of **WORSHIP**

gives **HOPE**

The flood that **CLEANSSES** and **CREATES** life