



February 14-20, 2016

Text: Gen. 2:5; 3:7-13; Heb. 12:2

Lenten Series:

The Many Faces of Sin and the Complete Sufficiency of the Cross of Jesus.

SUMMARY OF SERMON: One of the faces of sin that our scriptures bring out is that of shame. Shame is a sense of unworthiness, fueled by such things as embarrassment and the awareness of falling short of one's own expectations, i.e. failure. At the cross Jesus redeems us from shame through affirming the truth that God loves us. When our identity is anchored in Christ and His love, we are freed from self-focused shame.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week reflect on the biblical thoughts about shame and God's resolution.]

Monday, Feb. 15 – **Psalm 25** [This psalm has many wonderful sections to it but it may have escaped notice that it is framed by concern for being shamed (cf. vv.2-3, 20).]

Tuesday, Feb. 16 - **Romans 10:1-13** [Paul is making the case that anyone can be saved by professing faith in Jesus Christ but also that there is no other way to be reconciled to God. He quotes from Isaiah 28:16 in v.11 to point out that deliverance from the sin of shame is only through faith in Christ.]

Wednesday, Feb. 17 – **Isaiah 42:10-17** [This is a Messianic passage in which God promises restoration for the nations. But the passage ends with a warning. Delivered in a shame-avoiding culture, those who trust in idols rather than the true God will be “turned back in utter shame.”]

Thursday, Feb. 18 – **II Timothy 1:3-12** [Paul can confidently say (v.12) that in spite of all the suffering for the gospel that he has had to endure he is free from any shame – as other believers (v.8) should also affirm. The reason is clear: the grace, love and life we have in the gospel of our crucified, risen Lord Jesus.]

Friday, Feb. 19 - **Jeremiah 6:1-15** [Although Israel was a shame-based culture, their idolatry and immorality had reached a point where, v.15, they had lost all shame. As much as shame is a reflection of sin, it is also a means by which hearts can recognize their need of the Savior. Without any shame, conviction is ignored and the soul is lost.]

Saturday, Feb. 20 – **Psalm 31** [David fears being put to shame (vv.1, 17) but the psalm focuses on and ends with affirmation of deliverance from God. This is a foreshadowing of the power of the cross of Christ to bring us the truth that we are loved by God.]



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