

Sermon Title: The Curse and the Cure, Born to Die

- My prayer for our church is a safe and healthy 2024. That's my prayer because I know of a lot of people who have been sick over the last few months.
 - As irritating as being sick can be, we are blessed to live in the time that we do.
 - COVID is much different today than it was 3 years ago.
 - I'm very grateful for the medical advancements that have taken place in my lifetime.
 - Now we just have to listen to medical professionals and take the prescribed treatments.
 - This morning we will be talking about this disease or curse that we have of sin, and the cure that comes from Jesus.

Romans 5:12, 15-19

- Paul spent a lot of time trying to explain deep theological truths, and in this passage, he is talking about sin and salvation.
- Sin has 2 definitions:
 - 1 - the act of doing something that God has said not to do or breaking one of God's commandments.
 - 2 - our sinful nature, and that is what Paul is talking about in our passage from today.
- Our sinful nature is the disease, our individual rebellious choices are the symptoms, and the only cure is Jesus.
- Our individual rebellious sins are not always the cause of our suffering.
- God created this world perfect, a paradise, but when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, they started a chain reaction, and passed down our sinful nature to each of their offspring.
- John 9:1-3
- Sometimes there is a correlation between a person's sin and their suffering, but not always. So that means we shouldn't just jump to the conclusion that they did something if we witness someone suffering.

- Now let's talk about the cure for this disease of sin, and that is only in Jesus Christ.
 - Without Jesus, sin would be a terminal diagnosis.
- Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Catechism 37 - "That during his whole life on earth, but especially at the end, Christ sustained in body and soul the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race. This he did in order that, by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice, he might deliver us, body and soul, from eternal condemnation, and gain for us God's grace, righteousness, and eternal life."
 - Which definition of sin do you think the author was talking about? The answer I believe is both.
 - What is an atoning sacrifice?
- While we celebrate Jesus's birth at Christmas, Jesus was born to die.
- We still need to talk about repentance.
 - The word repentance is an action verb, it literally means to turn and run in the other direction.
 - Just saying sorry to God isn't enough, God wants transformation of our lives
 - Romans 12:1-2 NLT
 - Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think, which will in turn change the way you act.

Challenges:

- Make 2024 a year of transformation. Let God transform you with the cure of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Admit that you are sick.
 - b. Go to the doctor to get the cure.
 - c. Take your medicine.
 - i. Read through the Bible in a year challenge, info in your bulletin.
- Never ever give up hope, no matter how hard things are around you.
 - a. God takes terrible things and uses them for good, he has done that for humanity's entire existence.
 - b. One of the great blessings we get with a transformed mind is that of a different perspective.
- When we meet together at the end of 2024, I pray that we can look back and see how far we have come!

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen:

Romans 5:12, 15-19: (NLT) ¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ¹⁵ But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁶ And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous."

John 9:1-3: "As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Romans 12:1-2: (NLT) "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."