

INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Pastor Josh Woodrow + Bridge City Community, Chattanooga + January 13, 2019

The Kingdom of God isn't segregated so our churches and communities shouldn't be either.

John was chosen by God to brutally & honestly call people to repent of their sin

"I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them." (Luke 3:16b-17)

Jesus was chosen and beloved by God to forgive the repentant of their sin

Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:15-22)

Do not present yourselves to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. (Romans 6:1-12)

The Cross = _____

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"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)

What does it look like to be an instrument of righteousness?

1. Truth _____
 - *"Repentance is not limited to personal transformation but [to] social responsibility [as well]."* (Leslie Newbigin)
2. Lament _____
 - *Lament in the Bible is a liturgical response to the reality of suffering and engages God in the context of pain and trouble.* (Soong-Chan Rah)
3. Repair _____
 - "The Greatest Commandment" is not a commandment of convenience.