

Activity Sheet, 11 November 2018

Grace that covers sin

Genesis 9v18-29

- We think starting afresh we can create a perfect society/world
- After the flood all the 'bad people' were gone, so a perfect world...?

Return to Eden?

- still infected by sin
- sin of 'under-reach'
- ▶ No way back to Eden, even in the church

- Where is the problem: in (a) wine or (b) Noah? (e.g. see Deuteronomy 14v26, Psalm 104v15, Genesis 8v21)
- In his drunkenness was Noah behaving as (a) more or (b) less than the 'image of God'?

Responses to sin:

(1)Ham-fisted (no grace): exposes sin

- "I'll be like Noah" – do what I like
- "I'm not like Noah" – better than others

- "Ham was rather pleased he could talk about how Noah had sinned." True or false?

(2)God's grace: covers sin

- Shem and Japheth reflect God's grace

- Which is told in more detail: (a) Ham (and Noah's) sin, or (b) Shem and Japheth's covering of sin?
- Who does Noah bless in v26? (a) God, (b) Shem, (c) Canaan?

(3)Victory of grace: defeats sin

- Canaan: grace refused → judgement
- Shem: where grace is found
- Japheth: wrapped in grace

▶ Jesus covers sin [Romans 3v25-26]

- Was Ham blessed or cursed? (See Genesis 9v1)
- Were all Canaanites excluded from grace? (See Joshua 6v25, Matthew 15v22-28)
- How many nations are blessed through the grace found in Shem's descendent, Jesus? (See Genesis 12v3)

Questions for discussion:

1. How should the reality of continuing sin affect (a) what we expect government to deliver, (b) how we function as a church?
2. In what ways can both *copying* others sin and *condemning* others sin reflect a rejection of grace?
3. Is it right to 'cover' sin? How is God's covering of sin, though the death and resurrection of Jesus, different to what Shem and Japheth did?
4. Why does rejecting grace lead to different sorts of slavery, rather than freedom?
5. How is the grace found in Jesus Christ seen in Genesis 9?