

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Persistent Sin, Perfect Promise

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

July 30, 2023

Scriptures:

Genesis 9:18-28

Theme: Sin is unrelentingly persistent but God's sovereign promises assure us.

Introduction: Like a child with a treasured blanket, we all recognize the need for comfort in the midst of the trials and struggles of this age. That need for comfort points to the persistence of sin—because sin has entered the world, comfort is needed. As God's people, we know that comfort is ultimately found in the promises of God, and the story of the Lord's faithfulness amidst Noah's unfaithfulness shows us why we can find our comfort in his word.

We see God's comfort through Noah's failure in 3 developments:

1. Sin smuggled in (18-21)

Noah was legendary for his righteousness. He was a good man who walked with God and obeyed him in the face of significant opposition.

After disembarking, he fulfills an Adam-like role: presiding over a new earth, having 3 sons, and working the ground.

Unfortunately, also like Adam, he falls into sin, getting drunk and naked. The reader has a sinking realization that sin was not left behind in the flood—it came along with Adam.

2. The serpent's seed arises (22-23)

The story gets worse. Not only did Adam sin, but his youngest son, Ham, proves to be in the line of the serpent.

Ham saw Noah's nakedness and did not honor his father. Instead, he went and told his brothers, seeking to heighten his father's humiliation.

His brothers responded honorably, walking in backwards to cover their father's nakedness, and thus covering his sin. They filled the role that the Lord had filled for Adam and Eve after their fall.

3. Envisioning Eden again (24-28)

Though Noah has sinned, his next action is to speak blessings and curses against his sons. These are his first recorded words, and show the Lord's mercy.

Ham is cursed in directly. Noah curses Canaan, Ham's youngest son, and Canaan's descendants would prove to be Israel's chief enemies.

Japheth is blessed with a promise to live in Shem's tents—a promise fulfilled when the Gentiles trusted in Christ, Shem's descendant.

Shem is linked to the Lord, as his seed, and his blessing is in the Lord.

Questions:

1. Are you bitter or resentful against anyone, including God himself?
2. Does God's grace toward you provoke you to be gracious to others?
3. Are you discouraged by sin's persistence in your life? How does the gospel