**CREEKSIDE’S TEACHING NOTES for Sunday, July 15, 2018**

**SAMSON**

**Failing Forward**

Judges 16:15-31

Samson shows us how to get up

when we fall down.

Dagon was the Canaanite god of grain and harvest which the Philistines adopted as well. It is this god that the Philistines thank for the defeat of Samson.

**ARE THE gods REAL?**

It seems not . . .

**“…they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”**

Jeremiah 10:3b-5

**But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it.**

Isaiah 44:15b

**“Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.”**

Isaiah 44:8b

It seems so . . .

**“You shall have no other gods before me.”**

Exodus 20:3

**“You cannot serve both God and (Mammon) money.”**

Jesus – Luke 16:13

Whatever we look to for our security, significance and meaning in life, that thing can become a god to us.

The battle between Samson and the Philistines was seen by the Philistines as a spiritual battle between Yahweh and Dagon.

**REPENTANCE**

WHEN YOU REPENT YOU WILL . . .

**1. FEEL SORROW:**

**For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There’s no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.**

2 Corinthians 7:10 NLT

Worldly sorrow is self-centred. Godly sorrow is God centred. One only says, “I broke God’s rules” and the other also says, “I broke God’s heart!”

**2. CONFESS SIN:**

**If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins**

1 John 1:9

In religion our only hope is to live a life good enough to require God to bless us. Every instance of sin and repentance is therefore traumatic, unnatural, and horribly threatening. Only under great duress do religious individuals admit they have sinned, because their only hope is their moral goodness.

In the gospel the knowledge of our acceptance in Christ makes it easier to admit that we are flawed, because we know we won’t be cast off if we confess the true depths of our sinfulness. Our hope is in Christ’s righteousness, not our own, so it is not as traumatic to admit our weaknesses and lapses.

**3. DESIRE CHANGE:**

**. . . the pain caused you to repent and change your ways.**

2 Corinthians 7:8b NLT

If you do not desire change then you have not done the work of healthy repentance.

**4. PURSUE JUSTICE:**

**You showed that you have done everything necessary to make things right.**

2 Corinthians 7:11 NLT

You want to make things right when that is possible not because your pursuit of justice (making things right, restitution etc.) earns you your forgiveness but because you have created an injustice, at some level, through your sin and you desire to heal that when appropriate.