

Please read through the Scripture aloud together before diving into the questions.

1. This past Sunday, Pastor Russ Siders led us through Paul's continued discourse in Romans 2. He shared a story from his childhood when, while playing in the mud, his cousin looked at Russ and laughed at Russ' dirty face. The irony in this story is that Russ' cousin also had a face covered in mud, but only found it funny on Russ' face. This is precisely how sin often works for those of who have a low level of self-awareness: we see the dirt on the faces of those around us without ever looking in the mirror to see the mud on our own. Jesus uses the analogy of tending to the log in your own eye before pointing out the speck in your neighbor's eye. When have you fallen victim to this trap of pointing fingers without thinking to look in the mirror? How has that inhibited the development of your faith?
2. Pastor Russ noted that the Reformed distinctive of "total depravity" means that there isn't an inch of all creation that isn't, at least, touched by the effect of sin. It doesn't mean that everything is as bad as it could be, but that sin affects any and everything, even our absolute best intentions. How does this strike you? Does it make you feel defeated in any way? How so?
3. Pastor Russ explained that none of us has a clean face because none of us can live accordingly to the Law perfectly, but there was one whose face was entirely clean, and that one was Jesus because Jesus lived out the law to perfection. As we think about this, why does the first step of salvation have to involve an acknowledgement that we are in need of a Savior? How many people who go to church on a weekly basis do you think ACTUALLY believe they are in need of saving, of having their face washed clean? Why is that so hard for folks?

To conclude your time, you are invited to pray together, for one another, for our community, city, and world. Then finish by praying the Lord's Prayer, together, which is as follows:

“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.”