

Title: How to Solve the Problem of Ourselves

#4 (or 3)

Text: Genesis 3:1-24

Let's turn in our Bibles to Genesis chapter 3. The book of Genesis chp 3. For the past couple of weeks we have been centering our thoughts around the theme: WHAT WE BELIEVE. Last week we ask ourselves what we believe about the Trunty. And we started off this series by looking at the Inspiration of the Bible.

Now, today, I want to ask: WHAT DO WE BELIEVE ABOUT SIN AND SALVATION? In our statement of faith we say that we believe "because of Adam's transgression of God's law, sin reigns over a fallen humanity. We are all sinners and fall short of God's grace. And we believe in salvation for all people granted by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, the only saviour of the world."

Genesis chapter 3, beginning with Vs 1....²⁾ (READ Vs 1-24) ..PRAYER

In Genesis chapter 3, we have presented to us the whole scope of what the Bible teaches about SIN AND SALVATION. That is why I entitled this message: HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF OURSELVES? Because Genesis 3 deals with that question. It is concerned with what is wrong with us. And what is the ^{Solution} cure to our sin problem.

I am afraid, dear friends, that in our world, today, most people have been led to believe that human beings began at the bottom of a moral ladder and is now slowly climbing heaven ward. We fall into the trap of thinking in evolution concepts. Man began in a primitive state and is slowly getting better and better. And we fail to remember that the Bible teaches that man began at the TOP and fell to the bottom.

During the past 50 or 60 years, humanist philosophers have taught that all the ills and problems of our life can be attributed to our circumstances or, our environment. But, dear friends, the Bible teaches that man is a fallen creature. And in his heart he is desperately wicked.

I heard recently a well known speaker announce that (Quote) "there is no such a thing as sin. It is a complex.".....How about that?..I am afraid, dear friends, that that attitude is the attitude of much of our thinking. That sin is simply a complex. It is the result of the problems of society or one's environment. In spite of all of our technology and our sociological ideas, in spite of our prosperity and our education, crime continues to increase 5 times faster than the population. (16 plus 4 murders - see ~~44 murders so far this year in the city of Oakland~~) I don't think we need to be reminded that our world is on a spiral trend downward. It is not evolution that we see. It is devolution. We are going backwards. And man is becoming increasingly more sinful. More selfish. More destructive... And in Genesis chapter 3, the Bible tells us what is wrong with us; and where we can find the answer.

(1B) O.K. First of all, what is the cause for sin?

Many times, when I am talking with someone who is suffering, physically, the question is brought up: WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

Answer: Because of sin...O.K. WHY SIN? Why doesn't God remove suffering and sin? Why do we have to live this way? It is a good question. And it ought to be answered by everyone of us. ~~WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SIN?~~

Look at Genesis chapter 3 verse 1....."Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made."

This serpent in the book of Revelation is called "the old serpent." He is also called "the dragon", "the adversary," "the deceiver." He is the arch enemy of God. It was Satan who, by the way, was the anointed cherub. He was the most exalted of all the angels in heaven.

But Satan decided ~~on~~ that he was going to be like the most high God. He was going to have God's authority. He was going to take over the rulership and government of heaven. And for this God cast him out. God rejected Satan. And a host of angels were cast out with him.

And Satan, now, has determined to fight God on all fronts. He is determined to sell man down the river to a life of sin. Thus, Satan, is constantly trying to tempt us and deceive us and to destroy us.

and And I remind you that Genesis 3:1 says that he was "the most crafty." In 2 Corinthians chapter 11 verse 3, the Apostle Paul writes, "But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

Satan deceives. And he cast doubt upon the Word of God. Did you notice that in Vs 1? "And he said to the woman, 'INDEED, HAS GOD SAID, YOU SHALL NOT EAT FROM ANY TREE OF THE GARDEN?'"

God did not say that! ~~He~~ said that they could eat of all the trees in the garden except one. One tree! But, notice, the way Satan presented it. He was throwing doubt on the Word of God.

And one moral test was given to them. Don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One ~~tree~~ *moral test*

Vs 2..."And the woman ~~said~~ spoke to the serpent, 'From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from ~~the tree~~ the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, you shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.'

Now, God never said that. Eve said that. Eve said, Vs 3, "that God had said that you shall not eat from it or touch it. God did not say that. ~~He~~ ^{Gen 2:17} said, "Just don't eat it." Eve is adding to the Word of God...

(20) So, Satan deceived Eve...And Satan tempted and deceived her with the same methods that he uses today. Let me share ~~those~~ ^{These} methods with you ^{SO YOU WILL NOT BE}

Vs 5...Satan says to the woman, "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing Good and evil. It was a temptation to be like God. To have God's knowledge and understanding."

Vs 6 says that the woman saw that the tree was good for food and a delight to the eyes, and the tree was desirable to make one wise....

WISE FOR WHAT?...to know good from evil. To be like God....So, what did she do? She took the fruit and ate; and then she gave it to her husband.

It has often been said that the three avenues of temptation by Satan are always the same. The LUST OF THE FLESH...THE LUST OF THE EYES....AND THE PRIDE OF LIFE....And we see it so beautifully, here, in Vs 6. It was a delight to the eyes.....(the lust of the eyes)...It was good for food... (the lust of the flesh)....~~And the pride of life.~~ *And* It was desirable to make one wise. *(The pride of life)*

Ans so as a result of Satan's deception, Eve was deceived. But, dear friends, Adam deliberately disobeyed God. ^{I Tim 2} Adam knew the will of God. And yet, he choice to deliberately disobey God. And because of that, MAN ~~Fell~~ ^{Fell} *(2B) Now, ^{second} third.* I would like to share with you four things which describe the condition of man as a result of sin.

(1C) First of all, I notice that there was an immediate discovery that something was wrong with themselves. Vs 7 says that "their eyes were opened, and they knew they were naked. A discovery that something was wrong.

(2C) Secondly, there was an effort to hide the shame that came to them by a self provided covering. Vs 7 says that they sewed fig leaves together to hide their shame. Dear friends, shame comes as a result of sin.

(3C) Third, there is a fear of God in an attempt to hide from His presence.

Vs 8 says that when they heard God walking in the cool of the day, Adam and Eve hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. You see, when you sin, you don't want anything to do with the Lord. You hid yourself from Him.

And friends, it is sin which robs us of the beauty of fellowship with Jesus. There is no other problem but sin. It is sin that separates us from God. David said in Psalms 66:18, "If I regard sin in my heart, the Lord will not hear me."

Consequence of

excuse,
~~Oh,~~

don't put the blame on anyone else. Don't explain it by circumstance. But, let's recognize that it is sin in our hearts. A fear of God and an attempt to hid from his presence.

(4C) And fourth, I notice from Vs 11 and following that as a result of thier sin, instead of confessing, they attempted to excuse it.

Adam said, "the woman made me eat"...And we are still doing that today, are we not? Blaming everyone and everything, but ourselves.

Well, the woman did it...And then Eve said, "The serpent did it." Blaming someone else.....passing the buck....

But, friends, the problem is still within ourselves. We know that something is wrong. And we attempt to hid through a self providing covering. We hid through all of our self righteousness...trying to hid the shame of our own sin.

And, also, there is an attempt to hid from His presences...You know: "I am my own man. I don't need God. Boy, if I ever went into that church the roof would fall down, and so on and so forth.

omit

So, instead of confessing our sin, we excuse it...We act as though it is not there. *And then we wonder what is wrong.*

Like God told us to do

(4B) But, my friends, the Bible teaches that there are consequences to sin. There are serious consequences if we neglect the sin problem. There are physical consequences....There are spiritual consequencees. And there are eternal consequencees.....

(1C) What are the Physical consequenceaes of sin?

(1D) Well, for one thing we learn from Vs 19 that there is physical death. The Bible teaches that as a result of sin there will be physical death. Every person must die. From dust you came and to dust you shall return.

You say, "that isn't right. I didn't sin like Adam!"

omit

Oh, yes you do. The Bible tells us that before the law of God came to Moses, that death still rained from Adam to Moses. And even before man had a standard by which to determine right from wrong, death still rained. Death was the physical consequence of sin...We will all die at some point.

(2D) The Bible, also, teaches that the ground would be cursed. Vs 17

teaches that fact. And this is a physical consequence of sin. I always try to remind myself of that when ever I have to weed the flower beds. And as I pull those weeds I think..."Adam, you really blow it"...(Ha) But, you know dear friends, God has ^{those} ~~lose~~ weeds there as a constant remainder of our sin.

(3D) There is a third physical consequence of sin. And every woman who has ever had a baby knows what this is. Vs 16 says..."in pain you shall bring forth children." Because of Eve's sin against God, a physical consequence resulted in pain in child birth. And every child that has ever been born is a silent testimony to the fact that we have sinned. And there is pain in child birth as a result of sin.

(4D) I read, also, in this chapter that another physical consequence of sin is subjection of the wife to the husband. Did you see that in Vs 16... "Yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Eve took the leadership and as a result she paid the price for it. God's standard for the home..then and now...is that a wife be under the leadership of her husband. And it is interesting that this position was a result of sin.

(5D) Number five...The last verse of the chapter tells us that there was the removal from the garden. Vs 24 says that God drove the man out.

Now, what was so important about that? Man could live somewhere else. But please remember. The garden of Eden was the place of paradise and ~~relationship~~ fellowship with God. And because of sin, man lost that position.

^{Friends}
So, those are the physical consequences of sin.

(2C) Now, let's come to the spiritual consequences of sin. And there are three of them.

(1D) The Bible teaches us that as a result of sin every person who is born is born in sin. We have a sinful nature.

I have discovered in sharing Christ with people that for many that is a difficult thing to believe. And so often people say, "You mean that that little baby that is born is born with a sinful nature?".....RIGHT...

You know, I have never seen a baby in my life come into the world..... LAUGHING.....Have you ever noticed that? They come into the world crying.... And if they don't cry, we think that there is something wrong...Isn't that strange? It seems as though the baby already knows before it understands that something is wrong with the world.

But, I know that it doesn't take long for parents to understand that their children have sin natures. That they are prone to sin. And that they will go their own way. In fact, the Bible puts it this way in Romans 3:23..."for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

In Jer. 17:9 it says that the heart is ^{more}deceitful ^{than} ~~above~~ all things. And who can know it."

5/24

and

I am always a little uneasy around those ^{FOLKS} who fail to see the sinfulness of the hman heart. Do you know what I mean? It was Paul who said at the end of his life: "I am the chief of sinners." He didn't think that he was better than others after living a victorious life with Christ. He began to see the alfulness of his heart. Dearly beloved, the Bible teaches us that all have sinned. And we are born with a sin nature. The Bible says that there is non that is righteous. No ~~not~~ one. And when you believe that...then you are in a position to really ^{deal with your sin problem.} ~~be blessed by God.~~

(2D) There is a second spiritual consequence of sin. Not only do we have a sinfull nature, but God says that we are spiritually dead and separated from God. Ephesians 2:1 says "you are dead in your trespasses and sins." There is no response to God. There is no ability to enjoy his fellowship. We are separated from Him. Isa. 59 says that our sins have separated us from God so that he will not hear. That is why we need to be born again

Oh, I think it would be a wonderful thing if every person realized that the lack of fellowship with God was a product of their sin. If we realized that, it would make us go to the Saviour in confession. But, so often we blame it on others, or on our circumstances. But, dear friends, it is sin.. Spiritually dead and separated from God.

(3D) But there is a third spiritual consequence of sin. The Bible says we are all under the condemnation of God. The whole world is guilty. Romans 3:19 says "that all the world is guilty before God." We are all under God's judgment because of sin.

(3C) But I think the worst consequence of sin is the eternal consequence. Please turn to the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation chapter 20. The scene, here, is the finally judgement of God. The Great White Throne Judgement. The people who are there include all the unbelieving dead of all history. They are resurrected to stand before God. And God is judging them. And the books are opened. And we read in Vs 14: AND DEATH AND HADES WERE THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE, THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH."

Dear friends, death is the word "SEPARATION." It is the second time. And the final time in which a separation will occur which can never be brought back again. Vs 15 ... "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." *For all eternity*

WHAT A TRAGIC THING.. All because of sin. A person can be eternally separated from God because of sin. You may be here today. And you may have considered the claims of Christ on your life. Or, maybe you have even professed Christ, but you have never really possessed Him. Maybe you understand what the Bible teaches. BUT, LISTEN, it only takes *(one lie to make a liar.* It only takes one sin to make a sinner. And the Bible teaches us that sin will separate us from God in a place called Hell for all eternity. UNLESS...we receive Jesus as payment for that sin. Dear friends, this is the teaching of the Bible about sin. *Repent or Perish*

The tragic consequences of sin. What a horrible thing for a person to refuse Jesus as Lord and Saviour. To never deal with his or her sin; and never see the problem solved...

For he must suffer eternally because of it.

But, it is doublely sad for Christians who know the consequences to continue to let sin eat at their hearts. No matter how small the sin may be. For sin will separate us from fellowship with God. Sin will grieve the Holy Spirit of God. And there will be no power and abundant life. There will be no love for one another, and especially God.. WHY?..Because sin divides and separates us from ~~God's~~ *Fellowship with Jesus*.

Oh, beloved, I don't know what the sin is in your life. But, you know what it is. You know what is separating you from God's love.

~~Oh,~~ let's get right with God. Let's confess these sins to God. No matter what it is or under what heading it may appear. No sin is to small, or to big. God is concerned about everyone of us. And the Bible says that all sin needs to be confessed.

I John 1:9, a tremendous verse, teaches: "IF WE CONFESS OUR SIN HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST AND WILL FORGIVE OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS."..... Praise God. ~~And with forgiveness comes restoration...~~

And with forgiveness comes restoration...peace...joy,...and assurance... and fellowship with Jesus.

411 (13) *Let's look at the solution* Now, come back to Genesis, please. Right here in this third chapter of Genesis we find the cure for sin. Genesis chapter 3, verses 15 ~~to 21.~~

In Vs 15 we read: "And I will put enmity between you and ~~the~~ the woman." That is, between the serpent and the woman.

"And between your seed".....That is, the serpents seed. "And her seed".. Which of course is Jesus....."HE SHALL".....That is, Jesus "SHALL ~~BRUISE~~ *CRUSH* YOU(THE SERPENT) ON THE HEAD!" "AND YOU(the serpent) SHALL BRUISE HIM ON THE HEEL."

Now dear friends, that happened at the cross. So, in this one verse we have the tremendous Gospel message.

But, look down at Vs 21..After Adam and Eve had sewed fig leaves together to hid their shame and their sin, it was all their work, it was self...it was the product of the natural man, now what happens?.....

Vs 21... "And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them."

or cleanse us

You know, God has to clothe us. And He clothed them with animal skins because it takes a blood sacrifice to pay for sin.

So, right here in Genesis 3, as well as through out the entire Bible, the message is: WITHOUT THE SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OF SIN.. NO REDEMPTION....NO CLEANSING.....

Dear

friends, Jesus went to the cross to pay for our sins. When He died and His blood was shed, it was the final payment for every sin that has ever been committed...past...present....and future.

And you know, I believe it grieves the heart of God when He knows that many of us carry the weight of sin in us. We carry the burden of some sin in our lives. It greives his heart because Jesus paid for that sin.

And, also, how it must grieve the heart of God when Christians no longer fellowship with Him because we refuse to confess our sin. *[Oh, there is no need to have sin in our life. The Bible tells us that if we will confess our sin, God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

When I *mean* speak on SIN *its solution* AND SALVATION, I am remeinded of a poem that I am sure you have heard. In fact, I used this poem a few months ago. This poem discribes so well this matter of sin and its consequences in a person's life. And it discribes the wonderful *salvation* that God wants to give through Jesus Chirst our Lord. *It is entitled* The Touch of the Master's Hand

Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.
"What am I bid, good folk?" he cried,
"Who'll start the bidding for me?"
"A dollar...*what will make it* a dollar...then two, ~~only~~...
"Two dollars, and who'll make it three?
Going for three"....but no....

From the room far back, a gray-haired man
Came foreward and picked up the bow,

Then, wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet
As a Caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said, "Now what am I bid for the old violin?"
And he held it up with the bow.
"A thousand dollars..and who'll make it two?"
"Two thousand..and who'll make it three?"
"Three thousand once..three thousand twice....
"and going...and gone," cried he.
The people cheered, but some of them cried,
"We don't understand."
"What changed its worth?"...Quick came the reply,
"The touch of the Master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap, to a thoughtless crowd,
Much like the old violin.
A 'mess of pottage'...'a glass of wine.'
'A game'....and he travels on;
He is going once....and going twice....
He's going....and almost gone!
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul, and the change that's wrought
BY THE TOUCH OF THE MASTER'S HAND.

God so loved you that He gave his only begotten son. That ~~who~~^{whosoever}
believes on him, should not perish, but have eternal life.

Oh, dear friends, don't let sin keep you from God! Confess your sin
and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour.

Prayer