God and Man

God's Plan (Slide 1)

Last week we studied why we need salvation. We can conclusively confirm that because of sin we are separated from God and that it requires reconciliation by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 1:7-9 (Slide 2)

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself

He purposed in Himself God's plan all along was to offer redemption through the blood of Christ.

Just to be clear, certain points that the Apostle Paul is stating are specifically intended for the Apostles and some are for them and us.

For the *Apostles*

Ephesians 1:4, 8 (Slide 3)

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame

before Him in love……which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence

The Apostles had to maintain their allegiance to God and the character of which God approved in order to have the abundant blessings of which they needed in order to be the workman God intended them to be from the foundation of the world.

Verse 9 speaks of the mystery of His will. Apostle Paul isn't speaking of something that requires superhuman understanding or about something that couldn't be known or understood. In fact, the Gospel is a straightforward easily understood plan for redemption.

Again, he is speaking of the plan of God to reveal the mystery of salvation to the Apostles first for them to teach and to reinforce through miraculous means.

Now the Gospel is known or at least offered to all who have a desire to know God and Jesus Christ through His Holy written word.

The Apostles and all who freely accept and obey God's will have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Unfortunately, many make their own plans.

Ephesians 2:11-14 (Slide 4)

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the (Slide 5) *covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation

Just as God broke down the *"middle wall of separation"* between jew and gentlie, who are now one in Christ, so too does God take down the wall of separation built by sin.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19a (Slide 6)

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself

God's Plan from the foundation of the world:

Romans 5:9-10 (Slide 7)

9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Once enemies now reconciled by the Blood of Christ.

A very simple message awaiting for anyone to accept and be saved.

(Slide 8) *O 'twas wonderful, wonderful love,*

That brought Him from heaven above,

As a ransom to die on the tree,

To save a poor sinner like me!

God's Plan-A Remedy for our Sin

Without that plan or rejecting that plan mankind would be and will be subject to God's wrath!

John 12:48 (Slide 9)

He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—<u>the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day</u>.

The world is illiterate when it comes to the wrath of God. Even many who believe there is a God have a skewed perspective about God and His wrath.

Some feel God is a being who is too loving and kind to ever impose eternal judgment on mankind despite their sin.

Some view God like they would view a kindly older gentleman.

Some feel that God is so slow to act upon sin and have disregard for His Holiness, and believe that He has become tolerant to unrighteousness.

They want instant justice for their enemies or those they have deemed worthy for destruction. They forget that today is the same day as was in the beginning for God. God's wrath does not expire at the end of the day even though He hasn't revealed it.

The English word "Wrath" has many meanings depending upon the context and the Hebrew text.

God through Jeremiah encouraged the people of Judah to mend their ways and turn from evil while there was time. Seemingly they were guilty of a number of sins. Yet, God gave them an opportunity to repent as well as warning if they did not.

Jeremiah 7:12-20 (Slide 10)

12 "But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of My people Israel. 13 And now, because you have done all these works," says the LORD, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking,

(Slide 11) *but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer,* [14] *therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.* (Slide 12) [15] *And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren—the whole posterity of Ephraim.*

[16] *"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.* (Slide 13) [17] *Do you not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?* [18] *The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink* (Slide 14) *offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.* [19] *Do they provoke Me to anger?" says the LORD. "Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?"*

[20] *Therefore thus says the Lord GOD:* (Slide 15) *"Behold, My anger and My <u>fury</u> (wrath) will be poured out on this place—on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched."*

(Slide 16) *The word translated fury is often translated as wrath. It is the Hebrew word for "CHARA" which is defined: "to burn with fury." It is similar to the Hebrew term "Charon" which is defined: "burning fierce wrath."*

God's wrath in this context is specifically targeting unrepented sins that have been exposed.

The summation of God's wrath is best described by picturing someone we know who on occasion become so angry that their face turns beet red! We probably know someone like this.

God's wrath toward sin and the sinner in general is seen in the prophecy of Isaiah.

Isaiah 13:9 (Slide 17)

Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, (Hebrew definition: Intense anger) To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.

That doesn't sound like God has become worn down and tolerant of sin.

Apostle Paul warns that the wrath of God will one day reach a boiling point and He will extract revenge.

Romans 2:5-9 (Slide 18)

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds": 7 eternal life to (Slide 19) *those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek*

So illiterate is the world concerning God' s wrath and what is written in the Holy Bible about that wrath is that they fail to see that much more is written about His wrath and the impending judgement for those who fail to repent than about His Love and Compassion.

Yet, God has a plan for all who wished to be saved:

God's Plan

John 3:16 (Slide 20)

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Invitation

Hear His plea and escape the wrath that is surely to come. Be baptized into Christ and have your sins washed away and live from that day forward faithfully, in spiritual peace.

If you are already a child of God but need prayer for any reason, please make your request known so we may pray for you…….

Let your wish be known today……..

Reading

Ephesians 1:3-14

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the

mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, [10] that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. [11] In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, [12] that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

[13] In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

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