God and Man

Why Do We Need Salvation? (Slide 1)

For some, the answer to the sermon's title may not be as hard to discover as it is to live up to!

We know that God is perfect in every way:

Matthew 5:43-48 (Slide 2)
43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, (Slide 3) *45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?* (Slide 4) *47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Love your neighbor
Love your enemies

Bless those who curse you
Do good to those who hate you
Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you
Be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect

You can easily see that understanding what Jesus is saying is much easier than carrying out what He says.

Nevertheless, this is God's standards. This is the perfection He expects. When we can't be perfect as He is we need His help to be perfect, that is; to meet His standard.

Again, the principle of choosing to work toward that completeness, perfection goes back to the same choice Adam and Eve had in the garden. Particularly Adam since He received the command to obey first.

Isaiah wrote:

Isaiah 59:2-3 (Slide 5)
2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden His face from you,
So that He will not hear.
3 For your hands are defiled with blood,
And your fingers with iniquity;
Your lips have spoken lies,
Your tongue has muttered perversity.

*Perhaps and most likely we haven't committed the sins that Isaiah is writing about but the idea is carried over in the fact that our "**iniquities have separated you from your God.**"*

James 1:12-15 (Slide 6)
[12] Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. [13] Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; (Slide 7) for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. [14] But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. [15] Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Sin……..brings forth death. He is speaking of Spiritual death though one could say that some sin has actually caused physical death.

The reality is that one who remains in sin has been handed the ***death penalty***.

Romans 6:23a
For the wages of sin is death.

In the Old Testament there were several ways that disobedience would cause one to be given the death penalty:

We are familiar with several.

Murder-Exodus 21:12 and many other places, *adultery-Leviticus 20:10*, *homosexuality-Leviticus 20:13*, *bestiality* (*which is beyond comprehension) Exodus 22:19*, an *idolator-Exodus 22:20* or even someone who entices others to engage in *idolatry-Deutoronomy 13:6-15*.

Some we may not be as familiar with:

Leviticus 21:9 (Slide 8)
The daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the harlot, she profanes her father. She shall be burned with fire.

Deuteronomy 17:8-12 (Slide 9)
8 "If a matter arises which is too hard for you to judge, between degrees of guilt for bloodshed, between one judgment or another, or between one punishment or another, matters of controversy within your gates, (Slide 10) *then you shall arise and go up to*

the place which the LORD your God chooses. [9] And you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge there in those days, and inquire of them; they shall pronounce upon you the sentence of judgment. (Slide 11) *[10] You shall do according to the sentence which they pronounce upon you in that place which the LORD chooses. And you shall be careful to do according to all that they order you. [11] According to the sentence of the law in which they instruct you,* (Slide 12) *according to the judgment which they tell you, you shall do; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left from the sentence which they pronounce upon you. [12] Now the man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the* (Slide 13) *priest who stands to minister there before the LORD your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall put away the evil from Israel.*

Exodus 21:28-29 (Slide 14)
[28] "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then the ox shall surely be stoned, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted. [29] But if the ox tended to thrust with its horn in times (Slide 15) *past, and it has been made known to his owner, and he has not kept it confined, so that it has*

killed a man or a woman, the ox shall be stoned and its owner also shall be put to death.

Exodus 21:22-25 (Slide 16)
22 "If men fight, and hurt a woman with child, so that she gives birth prematurely, yet no harm follows, he shall surely be punished accordingly as the woman's husband imposes on him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. (Slide 17) *23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, 25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*

And there are many more reasons in the Old Testament for the death penalty.

We are unlikely guilty of what we have just read but we must understand that all sin separates us from God!

James 4:13-17 (Slide 18)

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears (Slide 19) *for a little time*

and then vanishes away. [15] Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that." [16] But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

[17] Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

It seems to me that one of the concepts is that if we fail to acknowledge God in all things pertaining to this life we sin.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (Slide 20)

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Ranking Sin?

We tend to rank sin in severity and from the human standpoint some seem to be worse than others. However, I am convinced that all sin no matter how big or small we think they are separates us from God.

This is a concept that is explained from the morality, the standard from the Old Law:

James 2:8-10 (Slide 21)

8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

I believe that the moral code defined under the Old Law is equivalent to any one sin that we may commit even though we may be innocent of all others.

It is why we have to have the proper perspective when helping a Brother who is struggling in his quest to be perfect/ holy as God is Holy.

Galatians 6:1 (Slide 22)

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Anyone can be in error but it is those who are more concerned about the flesh that become an enemy of God.

Romans 8:6-8 (Slide 23)

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the

carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. [8] So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

When one puts the desires of the flesh above all else he stands to face the death penalty. Unrepented sins put us standing alongside him waiting for the same judgement.

Ephesians 2:11-13 (Slide 24)

[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 (Slide 25) *the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the 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.*

At one time gentiles, which includes us, were without hope yet by the blood of Christ offered to all once and for all we can have full assurance of Hope.

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine

O what a foretaste of glory divine

Heir of salvation, purchase of God

Born of His spirit, washed in His blood

This is my story, this is my song

Praising my Savior all the day long

Why do we need salvation? Because we sin and God can have no part of the sin that is in us!

Invitation

Do you have that blessed assurance? Is Jesus yours? Have you submitted your will to God's and been baptized into life through the blood of Christ? If not, don't delay! Do it today!

If you are in Christ but need prayer, please let us know…….

Let your wish be known today……..

Reading

Romans 6:15-23

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! 16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. 19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented

your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

[20] For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. [21] What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. [22] But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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