



2- WHAT DO WE CALL THIS MESS?

5) WHAT ARE ULTIMATE RESULTS OF BELIEVING SATAN'S LIES AND NOT TRUSTING GOD TO HEAL US?

Romans 6:23 "Sin pays its servants: the wage is death."(Phillips)

James 1:14 "No, a man's temptation is due to the pull of his own desires, which greatly attract him. It is his own desire which conceives and gives birth to sin. And sin when fully grown produces death—make no mistake about that, brothers of mine!" (Phillips)

Genesis 2:7 "then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being."(NRSV)

To pretend to be gods was Satan's idea. We still depend on God for life. Even as He treats us as brothers of His son we are still creation not creator. Millions of angels and humans have broken trust with God by wanting to be God himself.

6) CAN GOD BE TRUSTED TO EVEN WANT US TO COME BACK? IS GOD THE KIND OF GOD WHO WE CAN BE TRUSTED TO PAY ANY PRICE TO WIN US BACK?

Romans 3:4 - "What if some of them did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? Not at all!" (NIV)

Romans 8:3 - "What the law could not do... God did... by sending his own Son... to do away with sin."(GNB) - "God dealt with sin by sending his own Son."(Jerusalem)

God proved his unfailing grace and love for the entire universe by sending his Son to suffer the consequence of sin for all. The death of Christ sets things right, for we see what sin will do to all who embrace it. Love takes it all the way.

7) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO DEAL WITH SIN?

If sin is distrust then forgiveness alone does not heal the damage done. Forgiveness does not do away with sin. For peace to last forever in God's universe, trust must be restored and questions must be answered. Satan's accusations must be met. God must be seen to be righteous and infinitely worthy of our trust. And that's why God send his son Jesus to die. We will magnify this subject another night.

Romans 5:1 - "Now that we have been put right with God by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (GNB)

Put Right/Set Right= Justified

When we ponder all of this evidence and circumstances we need to make a choice in what to believe.

3 Main Ways of looking at this mess....

1. We broke the rules. God is angry. How much needs to be done to appease and calm him down? Will He find it in His heart to forgive and not destroy us?

2. We broke the rules. We're in serious legal trouble. God's law, His justice requires destruction and torture of all the disobedient for ever. How much needs to be done so God can legally forgive? How can He find a way to not destroy us so He still meets the demands of the law and looks just to the rest of the universe?

3. We sinned. We believed the lies of Satan. We turn and run away from God in fear of Him. We find many replacements for the emptiness we don't fulfill with Him and this is the huge mess we put ourselves in, just look around. If we were to live in this world totally without God's help, we'd self-destruct. How can we dispel the lies of Satan? How can the light of His truth shine bright? Is there unquestionable evidence that proves God is right and He can be trusted? Then we can let Him heal us/save us for we're not running away anymore. God can and will heal/save anyone who trusts Him.

What God would you want to spend eternity with? Which one do you want to believe in? Does it make a difference?

When we respond to God's invitation and accept him as our Father and Friend we join the side that already won the war. Isn't it amazing to realize that God's infinite and perfect love does not hold us as captives of this war but as conquerors of truth?

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.

We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.

Throughout these Friday nights we will present glimpses of evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.

INTRO

God already had a plan of salvation before He ever created humanity, before he created the angels and Lucifer. God intended for his perfect creation to live in harmony forever. But it was also his will that His creation had the freedom to choose, to question, and in so doing this truly love. So what really went wrong in God's Universe?

Tonight we will take a closer look at the beginning of this messed up world, the root of all the troubles that have come as a consequence. And hopefully by the end of our studies we will be able to understand that God's complete plan to restore trust was a way of setting right what went wrong. His perfect plan has and will allow the universe to have no doubt in God again. Things will never go wrong again.

1) WHAT MADE THINGS GO RIGHT BEFORE THE WAR?

Before war there is peace. There was peace because all trusted each other and their Heavenly Father. With mutual trust there is perfect freedom, peace and security. But when God was accused of being a tyrant who was keeping the truth from the whole universe, sin began.

Sin is a violation of mutual trust. Not a mere action but an unwillingness to listen.

1 JOHN 3:4 - Free translation: "Everyone who commits sin commits lawlessness; sin is lawlessness." (Williams)

The Greek word Anomia is used in this passage which literally translated is lawlessness or rebelliousness.

If sin is a mere action or breaking of the rules then God can be seen as one who will punish all who don't do what He asks. Fear would rule in this relationship with God. The Commandments may be viewed as arbitrary regulations designed to show his authority and test our willingness to obey.

Popular way of thinking: Obey= Reward / Disobey= Destruction

2) SINCE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, SHOULD WE BE FEARFULLY AWAITING THE EXECUTION OF THE SENTENCE? AND IF WE ARE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE AND WE TURN IT DOWN WILL HE PUNISH US WITH EVEN GREATER SEVERITY? WOULD THIS UNDERSTANDING PRODUCE THE FREEDOM FROM FEAR?

Exodus 20:1-17 And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery."You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand {generations} of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold

anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. “You shall not murder. “You shall not commit adultery.”You shall not steal. “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor. “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” (NIV)

God’s 10 Commandments give instructions regarding your relationship with God and your relationship with others. Jesus simplified the 10 Commandments to the root of their message.

Matthew 22:37-39 - He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”(NRSV)

1st Love God /2nd Love each other

We should not want to sin. This would bring freedom produced by love.

Has God said to you, love me and each other or you will all be killed? If you used this tactic on your family would you be pleased and satisfied with this forced, false love you impose? Knowing that God is love we know he would not do this.

We will only understand this when we look at the bible as a whole. We will study later on God’s wide use of law, why Jesus had to die, and how God’s law is no threat to our freedom. This is the truth that sets us free.

James 4:17 - “Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.”(RSV)

Romans 14:23 - “Any action that is not based on faith is a sin.”(Moffat)

- “Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.”(RSV)
- “When we act apart from faith we sin.”(Phillips)

Ezra 10:2 - “We have broken faith with our God.”(RSV)

- “We have been unfaithful to our God.”(NIV)

The essence of sin is a breach of faith and breakdown of trust and trustworthiness. Just as Moses did not trust God and misinterpreted Him in front of all the Israelites. Moses was one who spoke face to face with God. He spoke to the people always delivering a message or answer from God. They were friends. God trusted Moses and specifically asked him to speak to the rock and not condemn the people. But Moses did not trust God back, this is where sin happened. He called the people ungrateful rebels and hit the rock.

Numbers 20:12 - “But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.”(NIV)

Do you think this punishment was arbitrary and severe? Is this one loss of temper enough to keep him from the Promised Land? Why was this serious enough for these severe consequences?

Look again at text. Moses had enormous influence and had shown God to the people as angry when He was not. He misrepresented God as vengeful, unforgiving and severe. This was Satan’s sin in the beginning.

3) WHAT DOES SIN BRING TO US WHO ARE CAUGHT UP IN IT?

Isaiah 59:2—But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

1 John 3:20—For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. (NKJ)

Sin creates in us guilt, condemnation. We get afraid of confronting God because we can’t hear Him anymore, but

that’s not to say He turned his face, the very next verse helps us see that.

Genesis 3:8-10—They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord. . . . “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid.”

Proverbs 28:1—The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

The desire of God’s heart is that we let Him take, remove the guilt, condemnation, torment, by dying to our old ways, renewing our minds. Repenting.

1 Peter 3:21—[In Noah’s day eight persons were brought safely through the water.] Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 2:4—Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

The word in our language is “repentance”, and we usually associate that with remorse, sadness and grief, but the word in greek is METANOIA. Meta - after/behind; Noia - thinking/understanding/brain. The scriptures literally ask people to leave their current thinking behind, change their minds, to be healed of old conceptions, of our old sins and old life.

The desire of God is to take away what sin brings into our lives. Forgiveness should be seen as a removal, liberating thing that releases from us the guilt, shame, condemnation we carry when we sin.

4) WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF CENTURIES OF REBELLION AND DISTRUST?

The next verses we are about to read have substantial history abbreviated to this conclusion. The apostle Paul quotes six Old Testament passages: one from Isaiah and five from Psalms.

Romans 3:10-18 “As the Scriptures say: There is no one who is righteous, no one who is wise or who worships God. All have turned away from God; they have all gone wrong; no one does what is right, not even one. Their words are full of deadly deceit; wicked lies roll off their tongues, and dangerous threats, like snake’s poison, from their lips; their speech is filled with bitter curses. They are quick to hurt and kill; they leave ruin and destruction wherever they go. They have not known the path of peace, nor have they learned reverence for God.”(GNB)

Romans 1:21-24, 28-32 “They know God, but they do not give him the honor that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness. They say they are wise, but they are fools; instead of worshipping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortal man or birds or animals or reptiles... “Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the wickedness, evil, greed, and vice; they are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, deceit, and malice. They gossip and speak evil of one another; they are hateful to God, insolent, proud, and boastful; they think of more ways to do evil; they disobey their parents; they have no conscience; they do not keep their promises, and they show no kindness or pity for others. They know that God’s law says that people who live in this way deserve even approve of others who do them.”(GNB)

Ultimately because all humanity turned away from God and his character of love, by believing a lie, they chose the opposite governing power. Who is the father of lies? Without a government of love, a violent, chaotic mess began. The world chose to worship object and themselves, they followed a flawed government that failed over and over again. It seems like not much has changed since then. We will learn later on that it is a law that we become like the object of our worship through the words of Isaiah.

God wanted to win our trust back. He knows us with ultimate intimacy as husband knows a wife. Through Jesus Christ, God revealed his character because He wants us to know him as well. Friendship is what God wants from us.