

The Message of Salvation – Lesson 1

Genesis 3:8-9, “Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’”

One reason why God had created us in His image (Genesis 1:26-27) was so He could have fellowship with us and a relationship to enjoy for all eternity.

Reconciliation

- God’s plan from the beginning has always been reconciliation- Garden of Eden

1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.”

Question: From what was God was rescuing us?

- **Please Read: Luke 15:1-7**

Question: What view of God’s heart do we see here vs the stereotype of God in the world?

- Unfortunately sin separated us from God and created a barrier that alienated us
- **Please Read: Romans 5:6-14**
- Jesus came for the express purpose to take away our sins

John 1:29-30, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

- God has reconciled mankind back to Himself; now it’s just up to them to receive it
- However, for many people in our moral relative culture, sin is a religious myth

Proverbs 20:9, “Who can say, ‘I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin?’”

Question: Does a sinner 1st need to be convinced of their sin before they can be saved from it?

- The Answer is Yes, but thankfully that is the Holy Spirit's job
- **Please Read: John 16:5-11**
- Before we knew Jesus, our lost and sinful state was not a pretty picture
- It's a humbling thing to face the reality of our own sinfulness outside of Christ
 - o we needed to die spiritually to live again- to be born again

Romans 3:21-24

But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Repentance Unto Life

When we share the Gospel with people, they first need to know the bad news:

- If folks fail to believe upon Jesus as their Lord & Savior they will indeed die in their sins

John 8:23-24, "But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."

- And if they die in their sins, then they will have to pay for their sins for all eternity
- **Please Read: Luke 16:19-31**

John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

- Acts 11:18, "*So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.*"
- **Please Read: Luke 18:9-14** – Lord have mercy on me a sinner
- To repent is to be sorry and turn from sin unto God, calling upon Jesus as Lord
- It's not just lip service either; Matthew 3:8, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

Acts 20:21; 26:20

I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. And prove their repentance by their deeds.

Always remember, the law (10 Commandments) or any other moral law found in religion cannot be lived out perfectly by any of us- outside of Christ we are all hypocrites.

- The law only serves as a painful reminder that we are not perfect
- **Please Read: Romans 7:7-13; Galatians 3:19-29**
- The purpose of the law is to frustrate mankind; it's impossible for us to keep it perfectly
- It's designed to compel us to look for a Savior, and thus lead us into Jesus' open arms

Before unbelievers can come to Jesus, they first need to be convinced that they need a Savior

Ambassadors of the Gospel – The Good News

Jesus first came as a Lamb to take away our sins, but in His Second return, He will come as a Lion to execute judgment- before this the Gospel must first be preached to all nations.

- Mark 13:10, *“And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.”*
- We are therefore Christ's ambassadors to carry this good news to the world
 - o The free gift of eternal life, salvation from sin and reconciliation back to God

2 Corinthians 5:18-21, “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Question: So what is the Gospel?

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8**

Luke 24:45-48, “Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘this is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’”