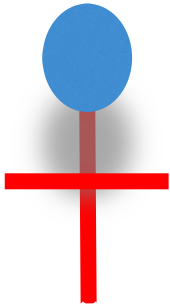


NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Salvation Part 2

The Chasm

Depravity



R⁺

God



In our last lesson we learned that we all face a very serious problem. We are all sinners and need salvation, or a savior, to save us from this sin. There is no gray area in salvation. It is black and white! You either are saved or you are NOT saved. How are we saved and how do you know if you are saved? These are questions that every single human being has to answer. You should not have a single doubt in your soul where you will spend eternity. You live on Earth for 100 years, or less, but when you DIE, it is forever and that is a mighty long time! Let us start answering these questions and by the time you are done, you will know how God saves us!

Romans 6:23b "...for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The solution to the problem was provided in eternity past (before anything was created and God existed) when He elected us, provided salvation for us, and made provisions for us in this life that we cannot even imagine!

1 Corinthians 2:9 "but just as it is written, 'THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.'"

That is right, in eternity past, before the human race was created, He provided salvation for us. Did you ever think about the fact that God created us with free will, knowing that we would fall and that He would have to provide salvation for us? He is super, super smart (omniscient)! Have you ever thought, "If He knew we were going to fall and sin and all of this was going to happen, why did He make us in the first place?" Well, that is something we are just going to have to ask Him in Heaven!

We are like play dough and He is the person molding the clay. Imagine if you were making a play dough person and it started asking you questions? You would probably freak out and then just mush it into a blob of clay again. Thank God that He is not like us and He does not mush us into a blob when we start asking questions. He could, you know, but He loves us. He did not have to do anything for us, but He did. He could stop the world from existing in a split second, but He does not. That should give us a healthy respect for and fear of God. We should remember that He made us for a purpose and we, including our very life, belong to Him. So, instead of thinking, "I will do what I want, this is MY LIFE!"- remember, your life belongs to Him. Jesus is your Lord, and He gave you free will to serve Him and others, not to be selfish and look out for just yourself.

We are all born sinners and we are all capable of doing evil. It is God's laws of establishment that stop us from self-destruction. If you murder, you go to jail! If you steal, you go to jail. If you break the law, you have to pay a price. Stop signs keep us from running each other off of the road. So, as you see, even in our "free-will" environment God's love is gently prodding us in the right direction. Also, within each of us is a conscience that lets us know right from wrong. That is from God too!

His grace and love are displayed daily and we can see them if we just open our eyes and look. His ultimate display of grace and love was sending His ONLY PERFECT SON to become a human and die for our sins! So, we see through all of these actions that God wants us to come to know Him. He does not want to mush us into a lump of clay (phew). He wants us to ask and seek and He will show Himself to us. How could we ever understand all of this if He had not given us the ability to do so? Again, His grace and love are involved even in the process of us getting to know HIM!

Without the fall in the Garden of Eden there would have been no need for salvation. In order to have a relationship with a perfect God, God's imperfect creatures have to live in His perfect righteousness. He can only have fellowship with perfection. How can we do this as sinners? It is impossible! Well, God designed a perfect plan. It is quite amazing and it will take our entire lifetimes to understand any of it through learning the Word of God, the Bible. Let us start with what He has done to SAVE us!

Hebrews 2:9-10 *"But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings."*

Do not ever forget that every activity, whether completed by the hand of God or through one of His creatures, was planned before any of us even existed. The entire goal of that plan is that we bring GLORY TO GOD, our Creator. It is no accident that The Lord Jesus Christ is the Redeemer. That sounds goofy, but the point is that God the Father revealed everything about Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ. So you see, even though we are the ones with the problem, as a result of the sin in the Garden, it is His glory that ultimately is on display. We do not get any glory do we? We are like that lump of clay, molded and formed by our great Creator. How can we get any glory from that? He is ALWAYS the one that receives the glory, not us. We are helpless and hopeless and simply need to be grateful and thankful He has provided for us. Let us look at why He gets all the credit:

He is Love: **1 John 4:8b** *"...God is love"*

He shows us what true love will do: **1 John 3:16** *"We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*

He shows us how to live in true love: **1 John 4:9** *"By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him."*

He shows what divine love can accomplish: **1 John 4:10** *"In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."*

He shows us the selflessness of Love: **Romans 5:8** *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

So, in eternity past, when He looked down the corridors of time with His omniscience (all knowing), He saw we were wandering around like lost sheep,

sinful and unholy. What did He do about it? Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ offered Himself as a perfect sacrifice for our sins (propitiation). God's justice requires a payment for sin. Perfect righteousness requires perfect judgment. You should find these points very personal, meaning you should understand that He would have done all of these things just for you! Even if you were the only person requiring these things from Him, even if you were the last person on earth, He would have done it all just FOR YOU. Why? "God is love".