

The Gospel of Christ and the Problem of Sin

The Gospel Addresses The Love Of Sin

TEXT: Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 7:24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. LAST LESSON: HOW THE GOSPEL ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM OF SIN.
- B. THIS LESSON: HOW THE GOSPEL ADDRESSES THE LOVE OF SIN.
 - a. We saw that sin does have its pleasurable side(**Heb. 11:24-25**).
 - b. Such pleasure often blinds men to the truth(**John 3:19**).
 - a. Such love definitely alienates one from the love of the Father(**1 John 2:15**).
- C. THE GOSPELS ANSWER TO THE LOVE OF SIN: FAITH(**Mark 16:15-16**).
 - 1. When we have FAITH, we will no longer LOVE sin, but even HATE it!
 - 2. As the Psalmist expressed in **Psa. 119:104**.
- D. WE NEED TO CONSIDER THE KIND OF FAITH IT TAKES TO HATE SIN AND CONSIDER THE EVIDENCE GIVEN TO PRODUCE IT.

I. THE KIND OF FAITH NECESSARY TO HATE SIN.

- A. ONE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.
 - 1. **John 20:30-31; 1:14; 1 John 5:13**.
 - 2. Strong conviction that Jesus was the promised Messiah(**Acts 2:36**).
- B. THAT THIS JESUS DIED FOR OUR SINS.
 - 1. Believing that Jesus died for our sins is part of the gospel(**1 Cor. 15:1-3**).
 - 2. Just as the Scriptures foretold He would(**Isa. 53:4-6**).
 - 3. Why, because God loves us!(**John 3:16; Rom. 5:8**).
- C. THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD(**1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 10:9**).
- D. HOW DOES BELIEVING IN THESE THINGS CAUSE US TO HATE SIN?
 - 1. Think about all that God has done(**1 John 4:9-10**).
 - 2. Think about what sin does to our relationship and his name.
 - 3. **How can we not hate sin?**
 - a. Sin is what makes the death of Christ necessary in the first place!
 - b. Sin is responsible for the anguish God and the pain and agony of Jesus!
 - c. **Heb. 6:6**.
- E. **Psa. 119:104**.

II. WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE FOR SUCH FAITH?(Rom. 10:17).

- A. EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION.
 - 1. Jesus appointed this was how people would come to believe(**John 17:20**).
 - 2. The resurrection was the center of what the apostles taught.
 - a. Peter(**Acts 2:32; 3:14-15; 4:33; 10:39-41**).
 - b. John(**John 20:30-31; 1 John 1:1-3**).
 - c. Paul(**Acts 26:22-23**).
 - 3. How strong is the evidence?
 - a. Consider the **number** of witnesses(**1 Cor. 15:5-8**)Over 500 people!
 - b. Consider the **character** of these witnesses.
 - 1) Some, like His brothers, had not believed in Christ prior to His resurrection(**John 7:3-5; Acts 1:14**).

- 2) Some were like Thomas(**John 20:24-28**).
- 3) Some were former enemies who had opposed Christ like Paul.
- c. Consider the **nature** of their testimony
 - 1) Hard, empirical evidence(**Acts 10:40-41; 1 John 1:1**).
 - 2) Objective, not subjective evidence that could possibly be attributed to hallucinations, dreams, etc.
- d. Consider the **transformation** which took place
 - 1) Prior to the resurrection, they were cowards who had lost hope!
 - a) They fled at His arrest(**Mark 14:50**). Peter denied Him.
 - b) They hid for fear of the Jews(**John 20:19**).
 - 2) Yet, after the resurrection, they were proclaiming Christ boldly as having been raised from the dead!(**Acts 5:28-32; 41-42**).
- e. Consider the **high moral standard** they taught and lived
 - 1) Exhorted the disciples to live holy lives(**1 Thes. 4:1-7**).
 - 2) They lived blameless lives themselves(**1 Thes. 2:10-12**).
- f. Consider the **sacrifices** they paid in **life** and **death**(**1 Cor. 4:9-13**).
3. To deny the resurrection of Jesus is to impugn the honesty and integrity of these witnesses.
4. To accept the resurrection is the beginning of the faith which will hate sin!
- B. FULFILLED MESSIANIC PROPHECY.
 1. Jesus used this to build the faith of His disciples(**Luke 24:25-27, 44-47**).
 2. Therefore, the apostles appealed to this line of evidence...
 - a. Peter and Philip(**Acts 2:29-31; 3:18, 24; 8:35**).
 - b. Paul(**Acts 17:2-3**).
 3. How strong is this evidence?
 - a. At least 330 prophecies in the OT that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ!
(**Isa. 11:1, 10; Jer. 23:5; Micah 5:2; Mal. 3:1; Zech 9:9; 11:12-13; 12:10; 13:7; Psa. 22; 41:9;34:20**).
 - b. What are the odds?

CONCLUSION:

- A. EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY AND FULFILLED PROPHECY ARE OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE TO THE GOSPEL.
- B. THE EVIDENCE IS IN THE SCRIPTURES(**Rom. 10:17**).
- C. DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH FAITH TO HATE SIN? TO LOVE JESUS?(**John 14:15**).