

I. WE NEED A SAVIOUR: GOD'S WRATH AT OUR SIN

Discuss with a neighbour:

"We will never appreciate our saviour unless we appreciate our sin.
Shallow views of sin lead to shallow views of Jesus."

INTRODUCTION (ROMANS 1:16-32)

1. WHAT IS SIN?

(a) Key Bible words for "sin"

- Missing the mark... Guilt... Rebellion against a King
- Exodus 34:7, Jeremiah 2:13, Mark 7:20-22, Romans 14:23, Hebrews 3:12, 1 John 3:4

(b) Key Bible concept: idolatry

- Romans 1:18-25

Questions for group discussion. From Romans 1:18-25...

- How can we tell that God is angry at human sin?
- Why is God angry?
- Describe the different dimensions of human sin.
- Think: why are we told so often that humans are "basically good"?

2. HOW DOES SIN AFFECT US?

(a) Sin is found in every person

- 1 Kings 8:46, Romans 3:10-12, 1 John 1:8-10

(b) Sin infects every part of every person

- Romans 7:18, Romans 8:7-8
- “Total depravity”

(c) THEREFORE we are unable to save ourselves

- Total depravity → total inability
- The “bondage of the will”
- Jeremiah 17:9, Ephesians 2:1
- John 8:31-45, 59 - “slaves to sin”... but willingly
 - The unbeliever sins necessarily but voluntarily
 - An illustration
 - A Bible illustration : Judas (Matthew 26:14-16, John 17:12)

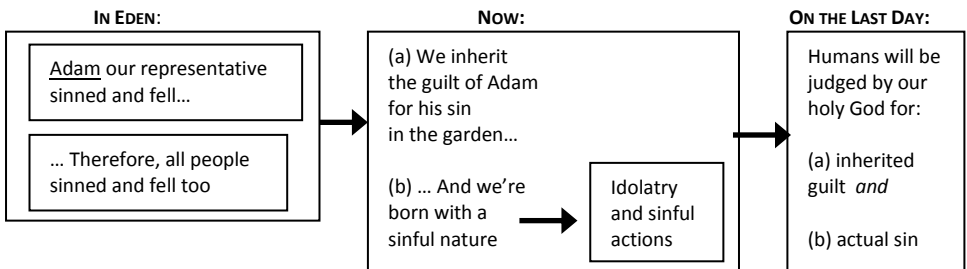
3. WHERE DOES SIN COME FROM?

- Adam: “Original Sin”
- Romans 5:19, “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.”
- Adam = the covenant head of the human race
God deals with all people “in Adam”

4. GOD’S RESPONSE TO SIN: HOLY HATRED

- Psalm 5:5, “you hate all who do wrong.”
- Ephesians 2:3, “Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”
- 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.”

5. APPLICATIONS: I’M MORE WICKED THAN I REALISED ... ONLY GOD CAN SAVE ME



- There is much more to sin than our actions
- NOT: sin → sinful nature
BUT: sinful nature → sin

6. HOMEWORK

For reflection:

- Read and pray in the light of Psalm 51
- Read the hymn and the quotes below and think about their words

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure;
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.

Augustus Toplady

"I will go as far as Martin Luther, where he says, "If any man ascribes anything of salvation, even the very least thing, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace, and he has not learned Jesus Christ rightly." (C.H. Spurgeon, *Sermons*, Vol. 1, p.395)

We declare on scriptural authority that the human will is so desperately set on mischief, so depraved, so inclined to everything that is evil, and so disinclined to everything that is good, that without the powerful, supernatural, irresistible influence of the Holy Spirit, no human will ever be constrained toward Christ." (C.H. Spurgeon, *Sermons*, Vol. 4, p.139)

Next week:

- Our subject: God sends Jesus. But WHY did God's Son become a man? HOW can God become a man?
- Please read Hebrews 2:5-18. According to these verses why did the Son of God become a man?