

Redemption in Romans Lesson 3 3Q 2010

All Have Sinned

SABBATH

Read first sentence, “Unless a person acknowledges that he or she is unrighteous, that person will sense no need for justification (God’s declaration of a sinner as righteous in His eyes).” Thoughts?

First, do we agree that a person generally doesn’t seek help if they don’t recognize there is a problem? Do you call a repairman if something isn’t broken? Do you go to the ER if something isn’t wrong? Do we need a Savior if we are not sinners, if we are not dying?

So, of course, if we deny we have a problem, if we deny we are sinners, then we will not be open to God’s salvation.

As we anticipate next week’s lesson consider the second part of the sentence? Is justification God doing something to God so He can change the way He sees us? “I God declare that I know see this sinner as righteous. Wink, wink, angels in heaven, we all know the sinner isn’t righteous, but let’s all pretend he is because I have declared it so.”?

Next week the entire lesson is on justification by faith, so consider this issue as we prepare for next week’s lesson.

Read last two paragraphs, “Ellen, G. White makes it...” thoughts?

How do you hear the phrase “liquidate the debt of his transgression”? What does it mean?

What does liquidate mean? It means, according to Miriam Webster’s dictionary:

1 a (1) : to determine by agreement or by litigation the precise amount of (indebtedness, damages, or [accounts](#)) (2) : to

determine the liabilities and apportion [assets](#) toward discharging the indebtedness of **b** : to settle (a debt) by payment or other settlement

2 *archaic* : to make clear

3 : to do away with

4 : to convert (assets) into cash

Which definition do you think fits best?

What about debt, what does it mean?

1 Sin, trespass

2 Something owed

Which fits best?

Christ's righteousness alone can avail for what? With whom?

Christ ever lives to make intercession, interceding to accomplish what? Interceding with what or with whom?

Let's first answer the question of righteousness and in doing so turn to SUNDAY's lesson

SUNDAY

Read top dark section, - thoughts? First, what is the power of God? The gospel – is the gospel a laser weapon? Is it a flaming sword? Is it thunder and fire coming down from heaven? Why is it some insist that God's power is something that coerces, pressures, punishes, controls?

What is more powerful coercive power or the power of love? What never fails?

What is righteousness?

The lesson states righteousness is being right with God, what do you think about this? What does it mean to be right with God?

What is it that prevents us from being right with God?

- Is being right with God, being “declared” right?
- Is it doing something to God so He will consider us right?
- Is it Christ doing something to hide us from God and getting God to see us as right, when we are not yet right?
- Can we be legally right without being changed in some real way?

What is wrong that keeps us from being right with God? Is there something wrong with God? Is there something wrong with us?

Can *we* fix what is wrong with us and thereby set us right with God?

Can God fix what is wrong with us and thereby set us right with Him?

Does this give us insight as to why it is only the “righteousness” that comes from God that is acceptable? Why?

How does Christ set us right with God?

- **The law requires righteousness,--a righteous life, a perfect character; and this man has not to give.** He cannot meet the claims of God's holy law. But Christ, coming to the earth as man, lived a holy life, and **developed a perfect character. These He offers as a free gift to all who will receive them.** His life stands for the life of men. Thus they have remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. **More than this, Christ imbues men with the attributes of God.** He builds up the human character after the similitude of the divine character, a goodly fabric of spiritual strength and beauty. Thus the very righteousness of the law is fulfilled in the believer in Christ. God can "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Rom. 3:26. {DA 762.2}

THURSDAY

Read top paragraph – thoughts?

Can God enforce His law? Is God's law enforceable?

What is God's law? The law of love? And what does it look like to be in harmony with God's law? Would repentance be part of that?

Can God get repentance by the exercise of force? What about love? What about enjoyment in the Sabbath? What about cheerful giving?

Where is it that God wants to put His law? Can God get His law into our hearts by the exercise of might and power? Can He force it in?

"The Holy Spirit will not compel men to take a certain course of action. We are free moral agents; and when sufficient evidence has been given us as to our duty, it is left with us to decide our course." *Review and Herald*, July 17, 1888

Read second paragraph, which is well said, "We should notice..." thoughts?

Then the lesson, after this very positive insight regarding God's inability to get forgiveness, or anything else He wants by the exercise of force, asks:

"What comes to those who resist God's love, refuse to repent, and remain in disobedience? *Rom. 2:5-10.*"

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will give to each person according to what he has done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for

every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

The Bible said it – do we believe it? What does it mean?

If we let Paul, who wrote this to Romans, define what he means by wrath a few verses earlier, then what do we learn? What is wrath?

Chapter one starting in verse 18 Paul tells us that God's wrath is letting people go to reap that which they have sown. It is God's suspending His intervention/intercession. It is God no longer holding back the consequences of unremedied sin.

According to Paul, from where does the punishment come?

The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; Galatians 6:8

What about God's judgment, what is it? Does God's judgment determine the condition, situation or punishment of the wicked? Or is it merely the proper and accurate diagnosis or judgment of what their situation or condition already is? Any examples?

Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone! Hosea 4:17

Or from Great Controversy:

Like the waters of the Flood the fires of the great day **declare God's verdict that the wicked are incurable**. They have no disposition to submit to divine authority. Their will has been exercised in revolt; and when life is ended, it is too late to turn the current of their thoughts in the opposite direction, too late to turn from transgression to obedience, from hatred to love. {GC 543.1}

What is God's judgment? Does God's judgment cause it or merely confirm what already is true?

Why do the wicked suffer and die?

They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thes 2:10

So what is Paul saying? That all humans, whether Jew or Greek are infected with selfishness, which is outside God's design protocols for life, the law of love. We can't fix or heal ourselves and only by accepting the truth about God and trusting Him can we be restored to unity with Him. Those who refuse the truth and prefer lies about God will have their condition worsen, and when Christ returns He accurately diagnoses everyone and each person will suffer according to their own unhealed condition.

So, knowing all of this how do we help someone who is like the little boy in the first paragraph of today's lesson?

MONDAY

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Thoughts about this passage? What does it mean?

Who is all? Is it all intelligent beings in the universe? Is it all humans? Except Jesus.

How do we fall short of God's glory? When in our lives did we leave the fullness of God's glory to a place where we fall short? Were we born short of God's glory? Was the condition of our birth our fault?

Does God know that you and I as individuals were born short of His glory?

So is this being short of God's glory primarily about a choice we have made to leave God's glory or about a condition into which we were born?

Has God provided opportunity for us to be restored to His glory? Is this the choice He sets before us – remain outside my ideal, my design, my glory – or let me restore you?

Does paying a legal penalty restore a sinner to God’s glory?

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read Romans 1:22-32 and then asks how this is similar today. But I would like to start in verse 18 and go through 32.

What do you hear as the primary problem? What did Paul say six times is the problem? The truth about God has been exchanged for a lie – and what was the result of doing this?

Their minds became futile, depraved and darkened – and when that happened what happened to their behavior? What kind of sins did Paul list?

Was it just sexual sins? Or others?

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Verses 29-31.

And how was it they were able to become such people? Could they become people like this if the Holy Spirit was dwelling in their lives? Could they become people like this if they were standing in the immediate presence of God?

So, when they insisted on rejecting the truth about God and clinging to false God concepts, and rejecting all efforts to turn them around, what did God do? Verses 24,26, 28, therefore “God gave them up”. And what does Paul call this action on God’s part?

God's wrath!

What are the lessons we are learning here? What happens if we hold to false God concepts? We are damaged in our minds and characters, and we practice what types of behaviors?

Gossip, slander – what would this look like today?

Would it include deception? Would it include using power to coerce and control?

And could it happen because people teach falsehoods in regard to God's character, such as teaching a wrathful God?

Read bottom green section – thoughts?

Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His Word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God. {FLB 59.8}

Wednesday

In what way are all people, Jews, Gentiles, all in the same situation?

If we are all in the same situation then how can we criticize or judge each other?

Do we? How?

Read last paragraph, "Paul's point..." thoughts?

What is the divine standard? Why don't we meet it?

What does it mean we are condemned? How are we condemned?

What or who condemns us?

“Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. ³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” MT 21:33-37

Thoughts?

Why is there no hope without Christ?

FRIDAY

Read second paragraph, “A terrible picture...” thoughts?