

Good Friday ~ Friday, April 14, 2017

“Our Problem ~ God’s Solution”

“He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was **our** weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.” (Isaiah 53:3-6)

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Good Friday confronts us with the painful reality of \_\_\_\_\_ and its \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem.

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Rom 3:23)

### THE MANIFESTATION OF IMPERFECTION

• \_\_\_\_\_: A term used in archery to describe what happens when an arrow falls \_\_\_\_\_ of hitting it’s target and misses the \_\_\_\_\_.

We fall short when we fail to meet God’s purpose or \_\_\_\_\_ for our life.

• \_\_\_\_\_: The exact opposite of sin—it isn’t falling short, but going \_\_\_\_\_. It’s a \_\_\_\_\_, intentional, decision to go against what we know to be \_\_\_\_\_.

• \_\_\_\_\_: This is a \_\_\_\_\_ attitude—a disposition to \_\_\_\_\_; to do my own thing. Iniquity is \_\_\_\_\_, self-centeredness that willfully ignores God and goes it’s own way.

“I acknowledged my sin to You. I did not cover up my iniquity and I confess my transgression and You forgave my guilt.” (Psalm 32:5)

Often when we’re dealing with problems—either in our own lives or on a larger scale—we tend to treat the \_\_\_\_\_, and not the \_\_\_\_\_.

### 6 APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN

- \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_
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Although these approaches might have a role to play, they fail to address the root cause of all the problems in the world—and that is sin and human \_\_\_\_\_.

“Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life.” (Proverbs 4:23)

“Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. But the words you speak come from the heart—that’s what defiles you. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.” (Matthew 15:16ff)

The heart of the problem is the human \_\_\_\_\_—and there’s only one solution to the problems of the world—\_\_\_\_\_ solution.

### God’s solution:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation by \_\_\_\_\_

“I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them; I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...” (Ezekiel 11:19)

On one level, the cross is a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and loss; however, through the power of God, it has become a symbol of victory and \_\_\_\_\_.

“The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it’s the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

We’ve been unable to solve the problems of the world—the problems that we created—because our \_\_\_\_\_ and strength are not enough—we **need** God!

What’s the solution to the world’s problems? The \_\_\_\_\_!

### A SPIRITUAL HEART TRANSPLANT: 4 BENEFITS OF THE CROSS

#1. \_\_\_\_\_ = Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

“God sent Christ Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to end all of God’s anger against us.” (Romans 3:25)

“Christ took away the curse the law put on us. He changed places with us.” (Galatians 3:13)

“God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. In exchange He poured God’s goodness into us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

When we break God’s laws, we have to pay God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

“The wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)

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“God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. In exchange He poured God’s goodness into us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1)

**#2. \_\_\_\_\_ = Jesus \_\_\_\_\_**

“He gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone.” (1 Timothy 2:6)

The Greek word for redemption literally refers to \_\_\_\_\_ that were purchased in a marketplace. In a spiritual sense, we were all slaves to sin until Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us and set us \_\_\_\_\_.

“You are a slave to whatever controls you.” (2 Peter 2:19)

“Don’t be a slave of your desires living like people who don’t know God.” (1 Thess. 4:5)

“God bought you for a price so do not become slaves to people.” (1 Corinthians 7:23)

We become slaves to other people when we live for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

“Freedom is what we have. Christ has set us free. So stand then as free people and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.” (Galatians 5:1)

Without the on-going strength and support of the \_\_\_\_\_, it’s easy for us to fall back into slavery.

“We can never redeem ourselves. We cannot pay God the price for our lives because the payment for human life is too great.” (Psalm 49:7)

**#3. \_\_\_\_\_ = Jesus \_\_\_\_\_**

Reconciliation involves bringing \_\_\_\_\_ together who have been

distanced by \_\_\_\_\_.

“We were God’s enemies but He made us His friends through the death of His Son.” (Rom.5:10)

“Christ changed us from enemies into His friends and gave us the task of making others His friends also...” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19)

Jesus is our \_\_\_\_\_—our high priest—who brings us into the light of God’s presence—and we can come \_\_\_\_\_ to the throne of grace.

**#4. \_\_\_\_\_ = Jesus \_\_\_\_\_**

Our identity is much deeper than that—who we are is an internal, \_\_\_\_\_ reality and not just an external, \_\_\_\_\_ reality. The change that Jesus offers us is so \_\_\_\_\_, so profound that Scripture likens it to rebirth—to becoming a \_\_\_\_\_ person.

“God saved us because of His mercy and not because of any good things that we have done. He washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.” (Titus 3:5)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ becomes a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The minute we come to Christ, we’re a new \_\_\_\_\_—everything old has passed away. We walk this spiritual reality out in partnership with the \_\_\_\_\_.

“Sin’s power over us was broken when we became Christians and were baptized to become a part of Jesus Christ. Through His death the power of your sinful nature was shattered. And when God, the Father, with glorious power, brought Him back to life again, you were given His wonderful new life to enjoy!” (Romans 6:3-4)

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The cross isn’t a \_\_\_\_\_ or a band-aid solution like the world offers, but rather goes to the very \_\_\_\_\_ of the problem.

**“Adam failed, Jesus nailed, Grace prevailed.”**

**God’s love most fully expressed in Jesus’ death on the cross—a love so amazing, so divine—demands our response.**

**How will you respond?**