

Free Sermon Outlines

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Facing the Inevitable Problem of Sin

(Romans 3:9-20)

If we are going to thoroughly appreciate and understand the grace of God, then we must face the inevitable problem of sin. As one commentator said, "As a child growing up in the fifties among Western Michigan Calvinists, I think I heard as many sermons about sin as I did about grace. The assumption in those days seemed to be that you could not understand either without understanding both."

The Christmas message is really about sin. After all, Jesus Christ came to this earth to deal with the problem of sin. The angel announced to Joseph, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

In many ways, if we fail to comprehend the sin problem, then the message of Christmas has very little impact or persuasion. Of course, the apostle Paul did not want his reader to misunderstand the inescapable certainties of the sin problem. Therefore, he named three inescapable certainties. They are:

1. We are all sinners (3:9) Two reasons:
 - a. We are all under sin (3:9b)
 - b. We are all on a level playing field (3:9a)
2. We are all in a bad way (3:10-18) Three reasons:
 - a. We are corrupt in character (3:10-12, 18)
 - b. We are corrupt in conversation (3:13-14)
 - c. We are corrupt in conduct (3:15-17)
3. We are all hopelessly lost (3:19-20) Three reasons:
 - a. We are all without excuse (3:19a)
 - b. We are all guilty before God (3:19b)
 - c. We cannot save ourselves (3:20)

Conclusion: The reasons why we need to face the inevitable problem of sin are because we are all sinners, we are all in a bad way and we are all hopelessly lost. When we realize this, we will throw ourselves upon the mercies of God.

Allowing the Bible To Speak

(Romans 5:12-14)

Agricultural scientist Dr. Brian Sindel writes, "Christianity makes sense of the world in which I live--the environment, my personal relationships, my moral failures, conflict, suffering, the existence of good and evil, human dignity and equality, sexuality and work. All are given perspective in a world created by God but ravaged by the consequences of human sin."

When faced with difficult questions or situations in life, some people look within for answers, others look to the sciences for answers. But still others look to God and His word to find answers. In that sense, the Bible is our text book on life. After all, the Bible speaks about sin, death, and life. At the same time, these three important issues give meaning and understanding to our existence on earth. In this passage, there are three areas in which the Bible speaks. They are:

1. The Bible speaks in the area of sin (5:12) Two questions:
 - a. Where does sin come from? (5:12a)
 - b. Why do I sin? (5:12d)
2. The Bible speaks in the area of death (5:12-14a) Three statements:
 - a. Death comes through sin (5:12b)
 - b. Death comes to all men (5:12c)
 - c. Death reigns from Adam to Moses and beyond (5:13-14a)
3. The Bible speaks in the area of life (5:14b) Two facts:
 - a. Adam brought death (5:12)
 - b. Jesus brings life (5:14b)

Conclusion: The content from allowing the Bible to speak consists of instruction in the area of sin, death and life. Understanding these three issues will give meaning and purpose to life.

Coming To Jesus For Counsel

(Heb. 4:14-16)

Introduction: In the past, Christianity was actively involved in the study, the development, and the understanding of psychology. Basically, this understanding came through the study of God and His word. However, in recent times, psychology has emerged as a unique discipline—a discipline distinct from theology. Therefore, psychology has moved away from its original biblical basis.

Worldly psychology tries to deal with man's problems by changing his behavior or environment; whereas, biblical psychology seeks to bring man and his problems under the authority of God and His Word. The reason for this is because Jesus Christ is the master counselor and the solution to all of man's problems. The answers to man's problems are found in Jesus Christ.

In this passage, we see three *reasons* for coming to Jesus for counsel. They are:

1. He is our great High-priest (4:14) Four reasons:
 - a. He purged our sins (1:3)
 - b. He is the exalted one (4:14a)
 - c. He is our perfect mediator (4:14b)
 - d. He is the object of our confession (4:14c)
2. He is our sympathetic High-priest (4:15) Two reason:
 - a. He endured many trials and tests (4:15a)
 - b. He triumphantly endured every trial and test (4:15b)
3. He is our merciful and gracious High-priest (4:16) Therefore:
 - a. We can come to Jesus with confidence (4:16a)
 - b. We can come to Jesus for help in all situations (4:16b)

The reasons we can come to Jesus for counsel are because He is our great high-priest, He is our sympathetic high-priest and He is our merciful and gracious high-priest.

Remember, we are complete in Christ (Col. 2:9). We will find everything we need in Christ.

Pressing Toward the Goal With Maximum Effort (Philippians 3:12-16)

In many ways, we live in a very sporty nation. A nation that loves to see its sportsmen and women achieve at the highest level. In similar ways, the apostle Paul must have been a sporty person because he so often used athletic analogies, or athletic metaphors to illustrate spiritual truth. One of his athletic analogies was that of a runner, running a race. Several times in his writings Paul referred to this running metaphor, this picture of maximum effort as one strives toward the finish line.

In some ways, the Christian life is a race and the Christian is a runner—a runner pressing toward the goal with great effort and enthusiasm. Paul said, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14). In other words, Paul lived the Christian life with purpose, with enthusiasm, looking unto Jesus—the author and finisher of his faith--knowing that one day he would finish the race and collect the prize. In the same way, Paul encouraged his readers to press toward the goal, to run the race set before them with maximum effort.

Paul gave three reasons why we should press toward the goal. They are:

1. Christianity is a growing process (3:12) Two statements:
 - A. In this life, we are not made perfect (3:12a)
 - B. In this life, we must press toward the goal (3:12b)
2. Christianity is striving process (3:13-14) Three statements:
 - A. We need to have a single focus (3:13a, 14)
 - B. We need to forget the past (3:13b)
 - C. We need to look ahead (3:13c)
3. Christianity is a maturing process (3:15-16) Two statements:
 - A. We need to have the right attitude (3:15)
 - B. We need to have a consistent attitude (3:16)

The reasons we can press toward the goal with maximum effort are because the Christian life is a growing, striving and maturing process. Are you striving, growing, and maturing in your Christian walk?