

## Lesson 4: The Sinner's Need

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In the previous two sections we have spent some time already looking at step number two called the Sinner's Need. Just by way of review: Adam broke the obligatory covenant and sinned against God. Because of his sin he paved the way for all children of Adam to be sinners. In this lesson we will look further into our need for salvation.

1. How does the Bible describe the human condition?

**Job 14:4** - Who can bring a clean thing out of an \_\_\_\_\_? No one!

**Romans 7:18** - For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing \_\_\_\_\_ dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.

**Jeremiah 17:9** - The heart is \_\_\_\_\_ above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

**Isaiah 6:5** - So said I: "Woe is me! for I am \_\_\_\_\_! Because I am a man of \_\_\_\_\_ lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts."

**Daniel 9:7** - O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us \_\_\_\_\_ of face...

A. What are the above texts saying to you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Revelation 3:17** - Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked –

B. What does Revelation 3:17 suggest of our understanding of our sinful condition?

2. In this next section we are going to see how Paul compares three groups of people: Gentiles, Jews and Abraham. How does Paul characterize all three groups?

**Romans 1:14-32** (Gentiles) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 3:9-18** (Jews) \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:1-2** (Abraham) \_\_\_\_\_

3. It is easy to tell someone to read these above texts and then conclude that we are sinners. There is a risk at this point for a person to agree with these ideas theologically, but not really understand in such a way that one really sees their sinful nature and then desire to be saved from it. However, if we will study the life of Jesus as a standard, and compare his life to ours, then we will become more aware of what is easy to overlook. Read the following statement.

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*“One ray of the glory of God, one gleam of the purity of Christ, penetrating the soul, makes every spot of defilement painfully distinct, and lays bare the deformity and defects of the human character.” FLB 128*

- How does studying the life of Christ expose our sinful nature?
  - Read the confession of Peter in **Luke 5:1-11**. What caused Peter to say I am a sinful man?
- A. What are some things we can do that will let the glory of Christ penetrate the soul, and make us aware of every spot of defilement?

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B. Read and discuss in light of the sinner’s need:

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*“The less we see to esteem in ourselves, the more we shall see to esteem in the infinite purity and loveliness of our Saviour. A view of our sinfulness drives us to Him who can pardon; and when the soul, realizing its helplessness, reaches out after Christ, He will reveal Himself in power. The more our sense of need drives us to Him and to the word of God, the more exalted views we shall have of His character, and the more fully we shall reflect His image.”*

The main point of the lesson is simply this: The more aware you and I become of our sinful condition, the more we will sense the need of His righteousness and the more we will seek it by faith. The more we seek His righteousness and the more we confess our unrighteousness, the more He reveals his power to us so that we will be the more like him. It is all so paradoxical. However, it is the truth, and this fundamental point of the sinners need is so critical to the working of the gospel order in our life today.

Appeal: Is it your desire today to begin looking at your life with an honest heart-searching investigation?