

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

We have spent three lessons looking at God's love for man revealed in the Life and death of Jesus in our behalf. What amazing love is this? But, for many of us, we remain unmoved by the topic. It is a well-worn record that we have heard played over and over again. It solicits no tears, no emotive response, and we seem to be desensitized to the story. Sadly, we don't even blush, and at best we may reflect upon the story with a somber brow, but does it change our life? Are the topics in this lesson will help us to understand the human condition, and in the process of discovery we may find our hearts being strangely warmed to the gospel story.

Lesson Four: The Sinner's Need

1. We are going to be discussing Human nature. What is human nature? Nature is defined as the essence of something, how a person or animal naturally behaves, or what is the default way we think and operate. How does the Bible describe human nature?

Read:

- a. Job 14:4 (NKJV) *"Who can bring a clean thing out of an _____ No one!"*
- b. 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."*
- c. Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is _____ above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"*
- d. Isaiah 6:5 *"Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of _____ lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of _____ lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts"*
- e. Daniel 9:7 *"O Lord, Righteousness belongs to you, but to us _____ of face"*

Discuss:

What is the true condition of these spiritual giants, and what can be said of our own state? Do you think that there is a disconnect in the current church landscape between what we consider ourselves to be, and what we might actually be?

Read: Revelation 3:17:

Besides their apparent issues what is their greatest issue?

- a. *"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 . . ."*

The real issue with the Laodicean people is that they "have no need." They feel that they are anything but sinful, and they feel secure in their spiritual attainments, and they do not know that at the core, human nature is foul.

2. In the New Testament era what does Paul say about the Gentile believers?
 - a. Read Romans 1:29-31

b. What do you think of his description? Is it an accurate description of the non-believer today?

i. What does Paul say about God's own people? Romans 3:9

"What then? Are we better than they? _____ at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin."

Read: Romans 3:10-20: This is actually a quote from the Old Testament. In fact, what Paul is effectively saying is "listen to what David and the prophets said about those that were supposed to be closest to God"

c. Discuss: How might this apply today?

3. As a last resort, when cornered by Paul's mighty arguments and convicted by their own conscience as to the validity to Paul's claims about the human nature, the Jews pull the Abraham card as a defense. Read Romans 4:1-2. What does Paul say about Abraham?

Abraham was a man that could boast before men. He was called the father of the faithful, the friend of God, he offered up his only son, set out and knew not where he was going, was faithful in all his doings; yet Paul said he may be able to boast when compared to other men, *"but NOT BEFORE God!"*

a. What is the ultimate truth about all mankind? Read Romans 3:23

"for all have sinned and fall short of the _____ of God."

b. What is the Glory of God? Read 2 Corinthians 4:6. "For it is the God who

commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of _____ in the face of _____."

Discuss: Jesus' life on this earth was a manifestation of the glory of God. Paul says that we have all fallen short of this glory, meaning the life of Jesus. When we compare our lives to Jesus' life, we start to become painfully aware of just how broken human nature actually is

c. Read this statement then discuss:

"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." Faith I Live By 128

4. What is the purpose of becoming aware of our sinful nature? Read Matthew 5:6.

"Blessed are those who _____ and thirst for _____, For they shall be filled."

Read: Romans 7:24. *"O _____ man that I am! _____ will deliver me from this body of death?"*

a. In both of the above texts there is the promise of filling and deliverance to the person that begins to understand their true condition.

b. Read the parable in Luke 18:9-14.

i. In this parable what is the main difference between the Tax collector and the Pharisee? _____

ii. Which man was justified by God? _____

iii. What do you think verse 13 reveals about what our attitude should be about ourselves?

Discuss verse 14 in light of today's lesson.

Read and discuss: *“Nothing is apparently more helpless, yet really more invincible, than the soul that feels its nothingness and relies wholly on God.” PK 174.3*

Summary: We live in a world where it is increasingly becoming thought of as a bad thing to dwell upon our faults, sins and shortcomings. The worldview today seeks to affirm, validate and even celebrate the human condition. The gospel is called the “good news” However, there must be an honest evaluation of what we are before we will desire and seek a better way of life. After today’s lesson have you become aware of your sinful nature and condition? The good news is that if you are this is the first step in finding forgiveness with God, and a right relationship with him.