

Part 3 – June 8, 2010

“Gospel Basics” (pt. 3)

The Catastrophe of the Fall

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die’” (Genesis 2:16-17)

- Mankind was plunged into the darkness of sin, losing his ability to reflect God’s Righteousness and coming under the judgment of God (death)

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man [Adam], and death entered through sin, so death spread to all men” (Romans 5:12)

- In the fall, man lost everything that God had given him. The result:

*“...for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [His image]” (Romans 3:23)*

*“And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience, and were by nature **children of [God’s] wrath...**” (Ephesians 2:1-3)*

“...without hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12)

- We cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior from heaven.

The Promise of the Gospel: The Redeemer is coming!

- In **Genesis 3:15** God promised to send the 'Seed of the woman' to save us from our sin through His death.
- Years later, God promised Abraham that in his seed, the nations would be blessed.

"Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his seed. It does not say, 'And to seeds,' referring to many, but referring to one, 'And to your seed,' who is Christ" (Galatians 3:16)

- This is the promise of the **Gospel**—that God Himself would forgive our sin by sending His Son to be punished in our place.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him" (John 3:17)

1. God sent His Son Jesus into the world to save His people from their sin.

"[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

2. Jesus experienced the same temptations we experience but without sin.

"...Who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)

3. At the cross, God laid the sin of His people upon Jesus.

"...the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity [sin] of us all..." (Isaiah 53:6)

"For our sake [God] made [Christ] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the Righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21)

4. Our salvation was fully accomplished in the death of Jesus.

"...it is finished..." (John 19:30)

The Heart of the Gospel: *The Cross*

- The cross is the *center* and the *heart* of the Gospel.
- In **Genesis 2:17**, God had warned that man's disobedience would result in death.
- Let's remember that God's desire in creating man was that in man His nature and character would be on display and He is a just and loving God.
- In order for God to remain *just*, He had to punish sin and in order to be merciful to His people, He had to forgive them. God accomplished *both* in the Cross of Christ.

"[Christ] whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness" (Romans 3:25)

Propitiation = one who dies for the sins of another

"...the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29)

- Jesus fully pain the wrath of God allowing God to justly forgive us.

*"But God, being rich in **mercy**, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together **with Christ**—by grace you have been saved" (Ephesians 2:4-5)*

*"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us **all** our trespasses..." Colossians 2:13)*