

“Man – His Creation, Fall & Salvation”

Genesis 2:7

Introduction:

- Tonight we continue our series we have entitled “ground work – laying a foundation for faith.”
 - The reason we are doing this is that it is so important that every one of us are able to give a reason for the things we believe.

“Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.” – I Peter 3:15

- We are supposed to understand what we believe and as the verse above states, we are to consider, ‘why’ we believe it.
 - Why do we hold the convictions that we do?

We looked first at God – His Existence...

- So often we are told that smart people believe in things like evolution and weak-minded people believe in God.
 - But as we saw there are some great reasons to believe that there is something out there that exists greater than you.

Next we look at God – His Word.

- If we are going to study theology, the study of God, then we need to have some logical reasons we believe He exists and we need have a reliable source to learn about Him.
 - And although there are 27 books consider ‘religious’ in our world, all teaching different things about god – only one is backed up with consistency of scripture, archeological evidence, fulfilled prophecy, external sources and scientific facts.

Then we considered that God is the Trinity.

- He is one God, but One God that exists in three persons.
 - God the Father.
 - God the Son.
 - God the Holy Spirit.

Then we considered God the Father.

- And we looked at His attributes or as we called them His perfections because He does not just love, but He is everything Love is and nothing that love is not.
 - We saw that in His perfections and also in the names that He chooses to be called, that they reveal to us so much of who God is.

Then we considered God the Son.

- That He did not begin with Matthew 1 and Luke 2 but He has always existed in eternity past with God the Father.
 - But then took on flesh to be a sympathetic high priest, reveal God to us and die in our place.
 - He died on Calvary’s cross and three days later rose again.

Then last week we dealt with God the Holy Spirit.

- That He is not an “it” or a “force”, but He is God.
 - Sent to convict the world of sin, lead us into all truth and transform us into different men and women.
 - Jesus never intended for us to do life and ministry apart from the Holy Spirit – so we must not grieve or quench Him, but be filled with Him.

Tonight we are going to shift gears from God to the pinnacle of His creation – Mankind.

- And tonight I want to take an overview look at our creation, our fall and God's answer to that in our salvation.

Man – Our creation – Genesis 2:7

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” – Genesis 2:7

- There are many theories out there about how man came into existence in the first place.
 - But basically they come down to two theories.
- Either man evolved by naturalistic causes or something or someone supernatural created man.
 - Now of course from our very first study we looked at good intelligent reasons to believe God exists and in our second study, good intelligent reasons to believe the Bible is an excellent source to learn about God and His creation.
 - So instead of rehashing all of that again, I refer you to those studies.

We are coming from the premise God created us.

- First Adam and then Eve, and they were placed in the Garden of Eden and told to multiply and fill the earth with their descendants.
 - Because we believe God exists, because we believe the Bible is a reliable source to learn about God and His creation, we accept these things are true.

But what was man in his original creation like, for a simple reading of Genesis 1-2 seems to paint a picture that is much different than the human experience we all know today.

- We can learn from Genesis 2:7 that God created man with a dual nature, we have body and Spirit.
 - We have a physical body that is made up of basically the same elements of dirt, which makes sense since God formed Adam basically out of the dust of the earth – you are a dirt clod.

But mankind is unique in that the later part of verse 7 says that God breathed into man life and gave him a spirit.

- That is the part of man that is eternal and connects with God.

Now it seems that originally man was created with his spirit first and foremost leading his body.

- We see man walking and talking with God in the cool of the day (Genesis 2:16, 3:8)
 - How amazing that would have been to talk with God face to face, not to be dominated by sin.
- Man was originally created in innocence; they had no evil in their nature or in their environment. (Genesis 2:25, 3:5)
 - But that all changed in the events recorded in Genesis chapter 3.

God had given Adam and Eve all things freely to enjoy, there was only one prohibition, “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 2:17

- Now this makes some wonder, why even put the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden?
 - Isn't God setting up man for a fall?
- Did God want this to happen? – I heard a study once where the speaker was asking the question, “Why did a perfect good angel like Satan rebel? Why did Eve enjoying all in the Garden of Eden go after the forbidden fruit? Well obviously it was because God wanted it to happen, God wanted them to fall.”
 - I have a hard time with that understanding.

- I believe the answer lies in the fact that God desires a real and genuine relationship with you, and for a relationship to be real, there has to be a choice.
 - My wife had to have a choice not to marry me.

And so too with God and His creation.

- To make obedience meaningful there had to be an available alternative.
 - To make following the Lord significant there had to be the opportunity to rebel.
- And man's rebellion came in the form of a serpent, processed or embodied by the devil no doubt, but the serpent began to speak to Eve.
 - Has God really said you shall not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?
- The enemy's attack in our lives always begins by getting us to question God's Word in our lives.
 - Do you really believe that sin is bad for you?
 - Oh I know that is what it says in that archaic book the Bible, but with all we understand in modern times, is that thing really wrong? Or are you just a victim of Victorian age morality?
 - The enemy will always get us to doubt the clear Word of God in our lives.

Both Eve followed by Adam, did not resist the temptation of the enemy, but partook of the forbidden fruit.

- Which by the way was not an apple.
 - I just recently read an article by someone claiming to be brilliant that said, the whole Genesis 3 account of the fall is complete factious and we know this because studies show that apples do not grow in the middle east.
 - Brilliant buddy – the Bible never says it was an apple!
- I personally think it was an avocado – those things taste so good but how much fat is in those things?

But all kidding aside, when Adam and Eve partook of the fruit, something horrible happened.

- Man's dichotomy was reversed.

No longer spirit first and foremost connecting with God, but our bodies and our fleshly desires were first and foremost.

- And just as God said, when Adam and Eve fell, they began to die.
 - The physical death process began in both of them.
 - But more serious than even that – there was a spiritual death that took place.
- Man was not spiritually dead, separated from God by our sins.
 - And we begin to see glimpses of God eventual remedy to man's sin in the end of Genesis chapter 3.

Adam and Eve tried to cover their own nakedness by sowing together fig leaves.

- That is what man always tries to do first – we try and do something ourselves to cover over our sin.
 - But like Adam and Eve we just leave ourselves in an itchy situation.
 - Get it, we just “leaf” ourselves, an itchy (fig leaves) situation – never mind.
- Man tried to cover his own sin, but God killed an innocent animal, blood was shed to cover their sin.

And that idea of the blood of the innocent covering sin would continue to grow as God would eventually give His people the Jews an elaborate system of sacrifices for sin.

- All of the sacrifices needing the death of an innocent animal, normally a lamb without spot or blemish, which would cover the sins of the people.

- All of these sacrifices of course, looked forward to the ultimate sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

Remember we learned last time that Jesus, who had always existed as part of the Trinity in eternity past, became flesh in Matthew 1 and Luke 2 to dwell among us.

- He did that to be a sympathetic high priest.
 - He did that to reveal what God was like to man.
 - But first and foremost, Jesus became a man to die in our place.

You see unlike us, Jesus lived a life completely without sin.

- He never had an impure thought.
 - He never acted on an emotion of bitterness.
 - He never stole anything.
 - He never harmed anyone.
- And yet He was treated on the cross of Calvary as if He were guilty of all of those things.
 - As Paul says in II Corinthians 5.

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – II Corinthians 5:21

- God the Father treated God the son as if He had lived my life and yours, with plenty to be ashamed of.
 - God the Father treated God the son as if He had lived my life and yours by going to the cross.
 - So the God could treat you as if you had lived His.

Salvation is the great exchange.

- His life for mine, my nature for His.
 - And it had to be this way.
 - For we are told that when Adam and Eve fell, it wasn't just they who were affected, but all of their descendants including you and me.
- Adam and Eve were created in innocence but every human since them had sin imputed and inherited.

Inherited verses Imputed.

- There is some discussion over whether sin is imputed or inherited.

“Inherited” means you are born into it.

“Imputed” means it is given to you.

- If I inherit a million dollars I was born with this inheritance.
 - If some decides to give their wealth to me – it has been imputed.

So what has happen with sin?

- Do we get it from our parents?
 - Or is it imputed from someone else.
- The answer is both.

Sin is inherited.

- We are told this in Eph 2:3.

“Were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” – Ephesians 2:3

- and Psalm 51:5 were are told ...

“Behold I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me.” – Psalm 51:5

- David is not saying by this that there is anything sinful about the conception process between a husband and his wife – nor is David saying he was conceived out of wedlock.
 - What David was communicating is at the very moment of conception sin was in me.

I know the theory is that babies are innocent until we corrupt them, but if you truly believe that then you have not been a very observant parent.

- I love my kids with all of my heart, my family is the most precious thing in this world to me, but I never had to teach them to sin.
 - Just take away their toy or pacifier or bottle or make them go to bed and you will see what I am talking about.

I am fully convinced that God made babies small because if they were full grown they would kill you.

- My little one has given me that look – give me back the pacifier if you know what’s good for you bub.

And unfortunately it doesn’t stop when we are infants.

- As we grow we continue to “sin”.

“Sin” - a word that means to miss the mark.

- God’s standard for you and me is perfection, but we have missed that mark – both unintentionally, I do things wrong I didn’t even mean to do wrong.
- And intentionally – that is the word in the scripture.

“Transgression” – willful disobedience.

- I have run into sweet grandmas who have told me, I have never done anything intentionally wrong, and though I find that hard to believe, it doesn’t matter, sin is missing the mark of perfection.
 - All of us are sinners and all of us need a savior.
 - We are sinners from conception.
 - And more than that.

Sin is inherited.

Sin is imputed. – Romans 5:12

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” – Romans 5:12

- Not only do we get our sin nature from our parents at the moment of conception, we also have sin imputed to us from Adam.
 - He fell and all of us are guilty.
 - Because he was our representative, and in a very real sense we were part of him.
- Now that seems unfair – but he was our champion.
 - The US dream team – perfect environment.
 - He still sinned and so would we and we do!

Adam stood for us, and failed.

- Before you get too upset.
 - Jesus stood in our place and had victory.
 - Just because of one man we are condemned, so too because of one man we are set free, Paul also says in Romans 5...

“Therefore, as through one man’s offense *judgment* came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act *the free gift* came to all men, resulting in justification of life. ¹⁹For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” – Romans 5:18-19

- We are all guilty.
 - We are guilty because we have all sinned.
 - But even beyond that because sin was inherited and imputed to us from Adam and our parents.

But although through Adam's sin we are all condemned, through Jesus' sacrifice we can all be set free.

- How does that happen?
 - By faith.
 - I have to believe what God says about me – that I am a sinner, separated from Him now and for all of eternity is something that doesn't change.
- I need to come to Him by faith, and receive the free gift of salvation He purchased for me on the cross.
 - Paul says in Romans 10.

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” – Romans 10:9-10

- Some of you may be still lost in your transgressions.

Some of you may still have the body dominating your life.

- You need what Jesus did on the cross for you.
 - You know you are a sinner.
 - You know you are lost without Him.
 - So it is time to turn to Him and be saved.

Now can anyone be saved, or did God die for only a select few.

- Is your eternal destiny predetermined?
 - Or do you have a choice in the manner.
 - We will examine that in detail in our next time together.