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Series: Let People See God!



Subject: If people are going to be saved...

What happened?

God's Plan for this world

After God created the heavens and the earth and everything in the heavens and in the earth, God said, “it was good!” (**Gen. 1:1-25**). On the sixth day of creation, God had a conversation with God and God said to God, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness and let them rule over creation” (**Gen. 1:26**). God then created the ADAM, the human, in the image of God (**Gen. 1:27**). As God is holy, righteous, merciful, compassionate, gracious, kind, faithful, truthful, and forgiving, He made humanity in His image...to be all these things that God is.

God, Who eternally exists in a loving relationship with God, saw that the ADAM was alone (**Gen. 2:18**). He had no one his equal to enjoy a loving relationship with as God enjoys with God. While possessing the ability for the moral image of God, he lacked a counterpart to express the relational image of God. He was alone! It was not good! In His mercy, God created a suitable helper for him - a woman to rescue him from being alone, to help him fulfill God’s purpose for his life, and to exist with him in a loving relationship that reveals the relational image God enjoys with God (**Gen. 2:21-22**).

To create the woman, God put Adam to sleep, took a rib from his body, and with that rib, like an engineer, God built the Woman...gifting her with all she needed for her God appointed assignment...to rescue the man from loneliness, to help him fulfill his purpose, and to exist with the man in a relationship that reveal the relational the image of God.

The Woman was drawn from the man. She came out of him. She was from or him...bone of his bones and flesh of his flesh (**Gen. 2:23**). God commanded them to populate the earth and to take care of it (**Gen. 1:28**). All that they needed - God provided, giving them liberty to eat from every tree in the Garden except the tree of knowledge and evil, warning that eating

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from tree would result in death (**Gen. 2:16**). In Eden, the first couple lived with one another, with God nearby, and with all they needed. The devil was also there.

Humanity's Fall into Sin

Sensing her desire for the forbidden fruit, the devil deceived Eve, convincing her that she could eat from the forbidden tree and not die (**Gen. 3:1-5**). Yielding to the desires of her flesh, trusting Satan, rather than believing God, Eve ate the forbidden fruit and gave some to Adam (**Gen. 3:6**). Adam, rather than being deceived as Eve had been, disobeyed God and ate, committing humanity's **original or first sin** and as a result of sin, their eyes were opened, they realized their nakedness, shame, guilt, and fear were now known, and when God came to fellowship with them, they hid from God (**Gen. 3:7-13**).

They lost innocence, lost righteousness (right standing with God), became guilty of breaking God's commandment, became unholy, became sinners, became unrighteous, were no longer worthy of being in God's presence and now deserved death for their sin. **God created humanity for eternal fellowship with Him**, but now they're sinners – God is holy – separated from sin - and the judgement for sin is not fellowship with God, it's death.

Question: What was God going to do?

The Dilemma

If God did not keep His own law of death for sin, God would have lied...God would have sinned...God can't sin. He's righteous! His actions conform to His Word! God is also faithful. He does not make promises and not keep them! God is also holy, He does not sin, and does not join Himself to sinners. **What was God going to do?**

The issue that had to be resolved

If God satisfied His law by putting the first couple to death for their sin, that would have been the end of humanity. God created humanity for eternal fellowship with Him. **What was God to do?** How could a faithful and righteous God keep His word of death for sin, how could He satisfy His law of death for sin and at the same time spare the first couple of death so they could populate the earth, live, and enjoy fellowship with God?

God's decision

God decided to showed them mercy and grace! God had finished creation, however to cover their nakedness, God made the first couple garments out of skin to clothe their nakedness (**Gen. 2:21**). Where did God get the skin? Instead of satisfying His law of death for sin, upon the couple, God chose a substitute to die in their place. I would argue -- a Lamb. Like a priest, **God offered the first sacrifice for sin Himself**. God slew a lamb and then took the skin from the lamb and made clothes for Adam and Eve. **God satisfied His law of death** for sin through a sacrifice! He showed mercy to Adam and Eve, sparing them the death they deserved. He showed them grace, giving them what they did not deserve, life on earth. God satisfied His law of death for sin on their behalf! There was no good work that the first couple could do to absolve themselves of the guilt of sin or the deserved punishment of death. It was even too late to decide to obey God's law. Sin was already committed. They were already guilty. They deserved death. God acted on their behalf, doing for them, what they could not do! Through a lamb, God satisfied His own law of death for sin on their behalf! God did not lie! God cannot lie (**Num. 23:19**).

The lamb died, so that Adam and Eve could live. On this day in the Garden, God inaugurated the plan that He would ultimately use to satisfy His law of death for sin so that all of humanity could have the opportunity to live, not die, and enjoy eternal fellowship with God.

The consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, have not ceased to be felt

Because of their sin, humanity who was created to live, changed constitutionally, from having a body that could live forever, to having one that will return to the dust of the ground (**Gen. 3:16-19**). Because of their sin, humanity was judged to suffer in this life until the day they return to the dust (**Gen. 3:16-19**). Because of their sin, all humanity is born with a propensity towards sin and evil rather than righteousness (**Rom. 9-18, 23; 5:2; 7:7-11**). Because of their sin, we, who in the garden, had the ability to choose not to sin, have lost that ability. Sin is now the master whom humanity obeys (**Rom. 6:16; 7:14-25**). Because of their sin, all humanity, while knowing the good we should do, live unholy, unfaithful, immoral, godless, evil, wicked lives choosing sin over obedience to God's will (**Rom. 6:16; 7:14-25**). Because of their sin, humanity still tries to hide their guilt of sin from God and still too often do not believe God and are deceived into believing there are no consequences for disobeying God (**2 Pet. 3:1-9**). Because of their sin, even wicked, godless sinners, who have never lived for God, believe they're good people, who when they die, perceive they will go to heaven and even have people say of them at their death, "we know they're in a better place." Because of their sin, we have become blind to the sin in our own lives (**Matt. 23:14-36**). Because of their sin, even though a lamb was slain in their place, Adam and Eve had to be removed from the Garden of Eden and no longer allowed access to the tree of life (**Gen. 3:22-24**). They would die (**Gen. 5:5**)! Because of their sin, their children, which we all are have been affected! Eve was from Adam...thus their children are from Adam, all people born, even you and I, are from Adam. **From one man, God made every nation of mankind (Acts 17:26)**. Since all are from Adam, all **inherit the guilt of Adam's sin**. All who will ever be born are born guilty of **original sin**.

David said,

"I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me"
(**Ps. 51:1-5**).

From the moment, a life is conceived in the womb that life is guilty of **original sin** and deserve death...and after that life comes to the age of accountability...that life and every life, commits **personal sin** – and deserve death. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (**Rom. 3:23; 1 Ki. 8:46**). All are guilty of original and personal sin and according to the law of God, the judgement of all is death. Because of sin, all are viewed as unrighteous, unholy, wicked, enemies of God, even friends of this world. **All are sinners.** None are righteous! All deserve death. These are the consequences of original sin! **God created humanity for eternal fellowship with Him**...so what was God to do?

Everyone born after Adam and Eve sinned more and more. Humanity's wickedness was so great that God destroyed everyone except for the Noah's family, who lived to populate the earth (**Gen. 6:1-9:7**). Those born after them, with a propensity to sin, lived in sin. God was patient and held off judging sin because God had a plan!

God's plan to satisfy His law of death for sin

Drawing from what God did in the Garden of Eden, God established a sacrificial system in Israel where priests, His representatives before the people, would slay lambs and goats and birds and rams as a substitute to die for the sins of His people, just as God slew a sacrifice for Adam and Eve (**Leviticus**). The people would lay their hands on the animal, transfer their guilt to the animal, the animal would die the sinner's death, so the people could live (**Lev. 3:2, 7-8, 12-13; 4:3-4**). Before the priests could offer up the sacrifices for the people, the priests first offered up a sacrifice for themselves because they were also guilty of sin (**Ex. 29:1-30; Lev. 8:1-36; Heb. 9:7**). How many animals were killed because of the sins of the people...too many to count because the people kept on sinning. **This system could not last because it could not absolve people of their guilt for sin because** animals did not sin...people sinned...so the death required...was not the death of an animal...it was the death of human being (**Heb. 10:1-4**). A human was needed to die for humans...but all humans were sinners and

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could only die for their own sins...not the sins of another. God was merciful requiring the death of animals to delay the punishment that humanity was due for their sin.

Another dilemma

God needed a human being, not guilty of original or personal sin, who would willingly offer up His life as an atoning sacrifice – a sacrifice that would cover over the sins of humanity --- and everyone accepting this death in their place as they accepted the death of lambs --- could be spared death and live. The problem was that everyone born through a man and a woman inherited the guilt of original sin and deserved death for their original sin and their sin. **What was God to do?**

The solution

God had another conversation with God! God decided to send God into the world. As humans were created in God's image, God realized the only way a human could be born free of original sin was that He had to be born in the image of a human (**Phil. 2:5-8**). As Adam and Eve, the first humans, were created to serve God, God in His humanity on earth, had to come as a servant. He had to take on all the limitations of humanity. Like every human, He had to have flesh and blood (**Heb. 2:14**), had to get tired, hungry, thirsty, need clothes and shelter, needed to be cared for, had to have morning breath like every other human, had to be tempted by the devil like every human (**Matt. 4:1-11**), had to be like humans in every way (**Heb. 2:17**) and He Who created life, had to be able to die (**Phil. 2:8; Heb. 2:9**). All God needed was a fit vessel, a woman's womb, through which He could enter the world fully human through the power of Holy Spirit (**Lk. 1:26-38**) so that He could face temptation as the first Adam did, yet not sin so that as all die through the first Adam, all could live through the second Adam (**1 Cor. 15:45-49**).

As God was the priest Who offered the first sacrifice for sin, God would offer the last sacrifice for sin. However, this time God would be the sacrifice. God chose another lamb, this Lamb of God was God Himself,

Who would become, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus Who was not a Son, Who is God with God, took on the role of Son with God as His Father, so that humanity would have a Savior, Someone born without original sin and Who lived without personal sin (1 Pet. 2:21-22), who could be offered up in death as a substitute for the sins of humanity (**Isa. 53:1-12; 1 Pet. 2:24**)! As God was the Priest in the garden to offer the needed sacrifice, Jesus Christ would be both the Priest and the sacrifice. He would offer up Himself, not a ram, or a goat, or a bull, or a lamb...but His very life and blood to atone, to cover over the sins of humanity so that through His sacrificial death, humanity could be spared the law of death for sin and live (**Heb. 7:26-28; 9:11-15**). God would transfer all the guilt of humanity upon Jesus to satisfy His law of death for sin through Jesus, so that humanity:

1. Could be spared death for original and personal sin,
2. Could live and not die
3. Could be viewed by God as though original or personal sin never occurred
4. Could be viewed as righteous and holy and justified (not guilty of sin) and able to live eternally in the presence of God.

This is the righteousness of God

God made it possible for us to attain this righteousness – right standing with God, not through obeying the commandments in the Law, but rather through faith in Jesus Christ, **through accepting** His death in our place, **through accepting** that He satisfied the law of death for sin on our behalf, **through accepting** that this is the only means through which humanity can attain righteousness- right standing with God, **through accepting** that this is the only way that humanity can be declared justified - **not guilty of original or personal sin**...so we can live in eternal fellowship with God...so that when leave here...we leave to live with God...and not exist eternally separated from God suffering for original and personal sin (**Rom. 3:19-30; 1st John 2:2; 4:10!**

Humanity needed **to be saved** from the guilt of original sin, personal sin, and the judgment of death for sin for all eternity. Jesus is the Savior Who was sent into the world to accomplish our salvation from the law of death because of sin. **All of humanity needs to be saved and the only way to be saved is through the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ!**

Consider this

If it was even possible to live every day of one's life in complete obedience to the commandments of God, without committing a single personal sin, we would still be guilty of inherited original sin and deserving of eternal damnation. The only way to be saved from the law of death for sin is through Jesus Christ! God loves us so much and so wants us to live in eternal fellowship with Him, that immediately after the first sin, God promised that the seed of the woman would bruise or crush the head of Satan but the seed would also be wounded on the feet (**Gen. 3:15**). The seed of the woman is Jesus...who has crushed Satan through His cross but was wounded in the process! “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life” (**Jn. 3:16**).

Paul grieved over kinsman who were not saved

Based on Romans 10:

- I. If people are going to be saved, they must be taught about the Righteousness of God (**Rom. 10:1-3; 3:21-30**).
- II. If people are going to be saved, they must be taught the difference between righteousness based on Law and righteousness based on faith (**Rom. 10:4-7**).

First: One righteousness ends the other (**10:4**)

Second: One righteousness reveals sin, the other salvation (**10:5**).

Third: One righteousness declares the arrival and accomplishment of Christ. The other does not (**10:6-7**).

III. If people are going to be saved, they must be taught the confession of faith that results in righteousness and salvation (**10:8-10**).

IV. If people are going to be saved...they must be taught that God sends preachers to proclaim the righteousness of God through Christ (Rom. 10:4).

The reason they who were not saved

Paul's kinsman were not saved because they were ignorant of the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ. They established a righteousness of their own, attempting to attain righteousness, through obedience to the Law, with the hope of absolving themselves of the guilt of sin and meriting salvation. One, there is nothing we can do to absolve ourselves of the guilt of original and personal sin. Two, the intent of the Law is to reveal our sin not enable anyone of us to attain righteousness – right-standing with God (**Rom. 3:20; 7:7**). Paul's kinsman misunderstood the purpose of the Law, misused the Law, and therefore missed attaining righteousness (**Rom. 9:30-33**). They failed to see that just as Adam and Eve could do nothing to absolve themselves of the guilt of sin, just as only God could intercede on behalf of Adam and Eve so they could be spared death, they could do nothing to absolve themselves of the guilt of sin. Only God could intercede for Adam and Eve, for them, and for each of us, to absolve us of our guilt of sin and to satisfy His law of death for our sin, if we are going to be saved.

Who can be saved?

For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes In Him will not be disappointed” (**10:11**).

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek,

For the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches/blessings for all who call upon Him (**10:12**).

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For whoever
Will call upon
the name of the Lord
will be saved (**10:13**).

How then
shall they call upon Him whom
they have not believed? -- They cannot!
And
how shall they believe in Him whom
they have not heard? They cannot!
And
how shall they hear without preaching? (**10:14**). They cannot!
How shall they preach except they be sent? They cannot!

Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"¹⁶ However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (10:15).

Preach the righteousness of God

God sends preachers to proclaim the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ **so that people** understand what God has done for them through Christ, **so that people** will accept what Jesus Christ has done to spare them from the law of death for sin, **so that people** would live eternally in fellowship with God.

Many things are preached, but the main thing that must be preached is the righteousness of God. It has eternal implications for humanity and expresses fully the reason Jesus had to be born into this world. A human not guilty of original sin or personal sin was needed to be the sacrificial lamb who would die so that guilty humanity could be spared the judgment of death and live eternally!

If you love people, let people see God

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If you love your family and friends, if you love people, let them see God, let them see what God has done for us through Christ so that they will live eternally in a world where there will be peace and joy forevermore, where every day will be Sunday and praise and worship in the presence of God with the people of God will last forevermore, where they will enjoy for all eternity the very purpose for which humanity was created – eternal fellowship with God! **This is the glorious Gospel we preach!**