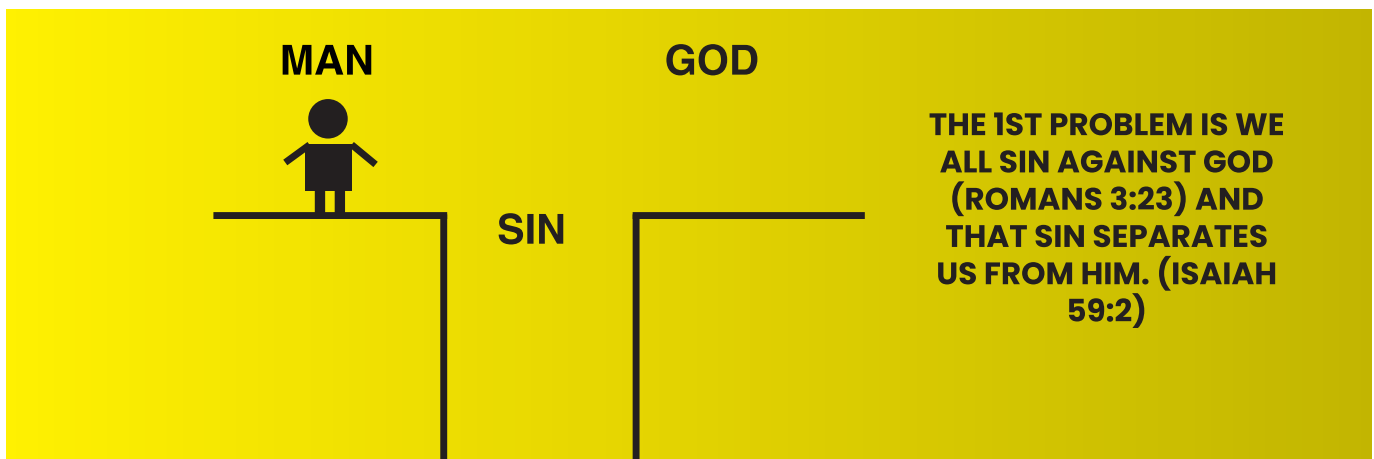


SESSION 2

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

Session #2 Teaching: God's Plan for Salvation

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. The one who has the Son has this eternal life; the one who does not have the Son of God does not have this eternal life." This passage tells us that God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son, Jesus Christ. In other words, the way to possess eternal life is to possess God's Son. Our problem is that we are separated from God as explained in Isaiah 59:2, "But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God; your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers." But, according to Romans 5:8, God demonstrated His love for us through the death of His Son. Why did Christ have to die for us? Because Scripture declares all men to be sinful. To "sin" means to miss the mark. The Bible declares "all have sinned and fall short of the glory (the perfect holiness) of God" (Rom. 3:23). In other words, our sin separates us from God who is perfect holiness (righteousness and justice) and God must therefore judge sinful man. (See diagram below:)



Scripture also teaches that no amount of human goodness, human works, human morality, or religious activity can gain acceptance with God or get anyone into heaven. The moral man, the religious man, and the immoral and non-religious are all in the same boat. They all fall short of God's perfect righteousness. After discussing the immoral man, the moral man, and the religious man in Romans 1:18-3:8, the Apostle Paul declares that both Jews and Greeks are under sin, that "there is no one righteous, not even one" (Rom. 3:9-10). No amount of human goodness is as good as God.

God is perfect righteousness. Because of this, Habakkuk 1:13 tells us God cannot have fellowship with anyone who does not have perfect righteousness. In order to be accepted by God, we must be as good as God is. Before God, we all stand naked, helpless, and hopeless in ourselves. No amount of good living will get us to heaven or give us eternal life. What then is the solution?

God is not only perfect holiness (whose holy character we can never attain to on our own or by our works of righteousness) but He is also perfect love and full of grace and mercy. Because of His love and grace, He has not left us without hope and a solution. This is the good news of the Bible, the message of the gospel. It's the message of the gift of God's own Son who became man (the God-man), lived a sinless life, died on the cross for our sin, and was raised from the grave proving both the fact He is God's Son and the value of His death for us as our substitute.

Discuss or Ponder and Review Scripture:

•Have you thought if you were good enough you would go to heaven?

After hearing today's teaching, what are your thoughts?

•Do you see the gap between you and God?

•How does God save you?

God forgives my sins and reconciles me to himself through his Son, Jesus Christ, whom he has given to the world as an undeserved gift of love. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16; see also Psalm 34; Zechariah 12:10-13:2; Romans 3:23-26)

•Why does God save you?

Because he loves me, God saves me from sin and judgment, so that I may love and serve him for his glory. (Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5-9; John 3:17; Romans 5:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Ephesians 1:3-14)

•What does it mean for you to repent?

To repent means that I have a change of heart, turning from sinfully serving myself to serving God as I follow Jesus Christ. I need God's help to make this change. (Psalm 51:16-17; Isaiah 57:15-19; Acts 3:19-21; 1 John 2:1-2)

•How can you repent and put your faith in Jesus Christ?

With God's help, I can acknowledge I need God to save me from my sins, receive the gift....He freely gives me, and then ask His help in turning from my sins. (Psalm 86:1-7; Joel 2:32; Acts 16:30-34; Romans 10:11-13; Hebrews 12:1-2)

•Why did Jesus Christ have to die for YOU?

•Do you believe that God sent His own Son for us