

March 31, 2016

What It Means To Be A Christian: Mankind Is Sinful and Sin Demands a Penalty

Romans 3:10-12 (ESV), **“As it is written, ‘None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.’”**

Over the past few days we have taken a look at what it truly means to be a Christian. In a culture in which the word “Christian” has unfortunately become largely meaningless it is important for us to understand what the Bible says about this. Being a believer, a Christian, is more than just identifying oneself with a particular religion or affirming a certain value system. Being a Christian means that you have embraced what the Bible says about God, mankind, and salvation. We have been considering some truths that are found in the Bible. The first one was that God is the sovereign creator of all things. The second truth, which we looked at yesterday was that God is holy, righteous, and just. Today we come to our third and fourth truths.

The third Biblical truth is that mankind is sinful. According to God’s Word everyone is guilty of sin. 1 Kings 8:46 says that **“there is no one who does not sin.”** Romans 3:23 says **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”** This does not mean however that people are incapable of performing acts of human kindness. I know many people who are lost, who have never turned to Christ in repentance and belief who do many charitable and “good” things for others. That being said, we are utterly incapable of understanding, loving, or pleasing God on our own. Look back at Romans 3:10-12, **“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”** This is diametrically opposed to what our world teaches us about mankind. In the eyes of the world people are basically good and any wrong that people might do is a result of their circumstances in life. But Jesus tells us in Mark 7:21-23, “For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.” We have no one to blame for our sin but ourselves.

The fourth Biblical truth is that the sin that every single one of us is guilty of demands a penalty. Remember that God is holy and because He is holy and just He demands that all sin be punished by death. Ezekiel 18:4 says, **“Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine; the soul who sins shall die.”** Romans 6:23 says, **“For the wages of sin is death...”** This is why simply making the decision to change your behavior cannot solve the sin problem or eliminate its consequences. God demands a payment for our sin and that payment is death.

Tomorrow we will look at the last two Biblical truths about what it means to be a Christian. We will see that there was only one solution to the issue of sin and that there is a result of that solution in the Christians life.