

April 8, 2014

Romans 3:10-11 (NASB), ***“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD...”***

Yesterday morning during the Eagles Nest Preschool chapel time I asked our preschoolers what Easter was about. One little boy answered with complete honesty: “Easter eggs!” While this was humorous and I appreciated this young boy’s candor it stuck with me the rest of the day because I realized that most people; preschoolers and adults alike, do not know what Easter is about.

Most pastors know that their church will be very full on Easter Sunday because many people attend church on that day, they might not attend very many other times during the year but they will be in church on Easter. Why is Easter so important? What is it that we are celebrating? What is the meaning of Easter? Most people really don’t know the answers to those questions; they just know they should be in church on Easter.

Despite what our culture tells us, Easter is not about the Easter Bunny, it’s not about Easter eggs, and it’s not a day that ushers in the new growth of spring. Easter is about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The reality of this season and any season is that we humans are completely lost without Christ.

Romans 3:10 which is quoting from Psalm 14:1-3 tells us that we are not good at all. This is very hard for us to understand and even more difficult for us to accept. Psalm 14:1-3 says, ***“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good. The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.”***

Only God is inherently righteous. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, ***“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”*** 1 John 2:1 says, ***“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”***

Mankind on the other hand is universally evil. This is a very difficult and “hard teaching” for many people. I experienced this firsthand when I was pastoring one of my former churches. In the midst of a Bible study on Romans we came across Romans 3:10-11 and I had one woman argue with me about whether or not she, or her family, were evil or not, telling me, “I don’t know about you but I am not a bad person.” We like to think of ourselves as basically good people and somehow in control of our salvation. We want the self help guru Jesus not the bloodied and bruised Jesus who is our only salvation. We forget that we are as Ephesians 2:1 says, ***“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins.”***

Michael Horton in his thought provoking book “Christ-less Christianity” writes, “Nobody will raise a fuss if you find Jesus helpful for your personal well-being and relationships, or even if you think he was the greatest person in history – a model of worthy devotion and emulation. But start talking about the real crisis – where our efforts are filthy rags and Jesus came to bear the condemnation of helpless sinners who place their confidence in Him rather than in themselves – and people begin shifting in their seats, even in churches.” I might add *especially in churches!*

The reality though, as hard as it is for some to accept, is that we are not good, we are evil and that innate sin nature has some consequences. Romans 3:23 says, “***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***” Our sin separates us from God. Why? Because God, as we learned, is inherently good, righteous, and holy. Because that is who God *is* this means that He cannot have fellowship with that which is unrighteous and unholy. The result then is that we are separated from God and have no relationship with Him.

If you have not repented of your sins and believed in Jesus Christ then you are not in relationship with Him. This is why we celebrate Easter because with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection the wall of separation has been knocked down and now we *can* be in complete fellowship with Him. Easter is not just a quaint holiday on our already packed calendars; it is the commemoration of the most important event in human history; the redemption of sinful man by the righteous and holy Savior.

If you have any questions about what you have read today please contact me at pastotra@centurylink.net. You also may contact me on Facebook or on Twitter at @Adamspastor. You also may simply call me here at Calvary Baptist Church 970-824-5222.