

Study Guide – “It’s A Boy 2”, from 12-10-2017

Warming Up

God established a law for the atonement of sin. This law requires the shedding of blood through death of an innocent substitute. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals was used.

But for a blood sacrifice to be potent enough to atone for the sins of all who believe, there was no human or animal that was qualified. And God could not do it, because it is impossible for the Spiritual God to die. What do you think of the idea that God had to become a human so that He could die the death that was powerful enough to atone for so much sin in humanity? Have you ever considered that He could not have done it remotely? Pastor Bobby addressed the necessity of God having to become human. Discuss.

Takeaway # 1 – “Who’s to Blame?”

In the beginning, everything that God had made was good. Pastor Bobby shared verses from Genesis 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, and 31. God controlled the creation, and it was all totally good!

Have you ever wondered why God gave mankind the freedom to choose between following His commands and sinning against Him by disobedience? What are your thoughts?

Ps 115:16 reads, “The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; But the earth He has given to the children of men.” So, God gave man dominion over the creation. Man sinned, and the rule of the world was passed on to Satan. As a result, mankind is now severely influenced by Satan.

As Pastor Bobby pointed out in 2 Corinthians 4:4, John 12:31, John 14:30, and John 16: 7-11, Satan is referred to as the “god of this world” and “ruler of this world.” If Satan now has rule of this world, why do people blame God when horrible things happen? Is this truth that Satan is “god of this world” and “ruler of this world” a subject that is not well known or understood in Christianity? If so, why do you think that is?

Pastor Bobby gave an excellent illustration: “If you buy a new car from Ford, and run it into a tree, don’t blame Ford.” The truth is that when man was given dominion over the earth, he wrecked it, and that’s not the Maker’s fault. When you hear friends or so-workers talk about bad things that happen, whether naturally or by the hands of bad people, do you think that they remember that calamity and crime were not part of the world that God created? They came to exist only because of man’s sin. So, is God to blame or man? Discuss.

Takeaway # 2 – “When Satan’s Lease Is Over”

1 Corinthians 15:24-28 reads, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For ‘He has put all things under His feet.’ But when He says ‘all things are put under Him,’ it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted (*the exception*). Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.” That time will be the end of Satan’s lease.

Before the original sin, there was no sickness, no tornadoes, no tree limbs falling, no collisions, no cancer, no murders, no abuse, no crying nor death.

Revelation 21:4 tells us about the future for Christians. “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Do you long for that time?

Discuss what God would like to see from us until that time comes. (Remember the Block family in Guatemala.)

Takeaway # 3 “Prayer”

If Satan is the ruler of this world, why pray? The answer is that Satan’s control is not absolute, and God’s control may be exercised by Him whenever He wants. This is clear when Jesus answered the request of His disciples to “teach us to pray.” Part of that model prayer is, “Your will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.” (Luke 11:2) In Revelation 5:16-17, “They said, ‘Worthy are you, Lord God, our Lord, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, for you created all things, and they existed and were created by you.’”

and God's control may be exercised by Him whenever He wants. This is clear when Jesus answered the request of His disciples to "teach us to pray." Part of that model prayer is, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Luke 11:2) James 5:16-17 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." Do you think that many Christians have lost faith that their prayers can change things? Have many Christians stopped looking for God to move in their lives? What can be done to restore faith?

Have you ever found yourself worrying about something (sometimes for days on end), then realized that you never stopped to pray about it?

On the other hand, do you think that God does not want us to submit a lot of requests to Him in prayer? Philippians 4:6 reads, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."

What do you think about Pastor Bobby's statement, "It's through prayer that we invite God's interruption of Satan's destruction"?

Conclusion – About Satan's Limited Rule in This World

1 John 4:4 reminds us of a very important position that we, as believers, have -

"He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." (Now, that's a quote worthy of being on your refrigerator!)

Will you begin taking control of your life by giving God control of it? Satan is not greater than the God who is already inside of you.

Will you pray to remember that when life seems to overwhelm you?