

07-16-2025

Sermon Outline: Propitiation, Sin Nature, and Eternal Security

Sermon Outline: The Parable of Propitiation, the Sin Nature, and Eternal Security

I. Introduction and Opening Prayer

- **Silent Prayer:** Confession of known sin for the filling of the Spirit (cf. 1 John 1:9).
 - **Opening Prayer:** Request for the Holy Spirit's guidance, power, and grace in teaching and learning.
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II. Personal Testimony and Ministry Calling

- **Testimony:** God's deliverance from mental illness and addiction through rebound, filling of the Spirit, and consistent intake of Bible doctrine.
 - **Ministry Application:** God's call to prison ministry, emphasizing that "God-credibility" is more important than "street credibility."
 - **Principle:** God uses the weak and unqualified by the world's standards (cf. Moses' call, Exodus 3-4).
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III. Thematic Overview

- **Current Series:** Eternal Security—"You cannot lose your salvation."

- **Focus Doctrine:** Propitiation—The Godward side of salvation; God’s satisfaction with Christ’s sacrifice.
 - **Contrast:** Reconciliation (manward side) vs. Propitiation (Godward side).
 - **Connection:** Propitiation as a foundation for eternal security.
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IV. Setting the Stage: Jesus and the Outcasts

A. Jesus’ Association with Sinners

1. **Matthew 21:31–32**
 - Jesus declares tax collectors and prostitutes enter the kingdom before self-righteous religious leaders.
 - Context: Spoken to chief priests and elders—outwardly moral, self-righteous, proud.
 - Tax collectors: Wealthy, despised, often dishonest.
 - Prostitutes/sinners: Lowest of society.
 2. **Matthew 11:19**
 - Jesus accused of being a glutton, drunkard, friend of tax collectors and sinners.
 - Religious leaders judged Jesus for associating with outcasts.
 3. **Luke 15:1**
 - Tax collectors and sinners drawn to Jesus’ message.
 - Jesus did not condone sin but offered grace.
 4. **John 1:17**
 - “For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.”
 - Grace message offended the Pharisees.
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V. The Parable of Propitiation: Luke 18:9–14

A. Reading and Context

- **Luke 18:9–14** (Read entire parable)
 - Parable addressed to those “who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt.”
 - Two men: Pharisee (self-righteous) and tax collector (humble).

B. Exegetical Notes

- **Contempt** (v.9): Greek meaning—disgust, hatred, disrespect.
- **Standing** (Greek: histēmi):
 - Pharisee: Aorist passive participle—posturing, standing by virtue of self-righteousness.
 - Tax Collector: Perfect active participle—ongoing, volitional humility; always his attitude.
- **Prayer Length:** Pharisee’s prayer (29 words, Greek) vs. Tax collector’s (6 words).

C. Principles

- Self-righteousness and pride condemned.
- True justification comes from humility and seeking God’s mercy.
- The religious leader, despite knowledge and ritual, missed the heart of salvation.

VI. The Sin Nature: Area of Weakness vs. Area of Strength

A. The Old Sin Nature (OSN)

1. **Romans 5:12**
 - Sin entered through Adam; death spread to all.
 - Sin nature resides in the body, remains after salvation.
2. **Romans 6:6**
 - Old self crucified with Christ; believers no longer slaves to sin.
3. **James 1:14–15**
 - Temptation arises from one’s own lust, not directly from Satan.

1. Area of Weakness

- Source of personal sins (mental, verbal, overt).
- Produces lust patterns: power, sex, revenge, etc.
- Expressed in immoral behavior, addictions, criminality.

2. Area of Strength

- Produces human good, moral self-righteousness, legalism.
- Outward morality often confused with spirituality.
- **Isaiah 64:6**: "All our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment" (Hebrew: menstrual cloth).
- **Galatians 5:19–23**: Deeds of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit.
 - Only what is produced by the Spirit counts as divine good.

B. The Deception of Human Good

- Morality is not the Christian life; only divine good (Spirit + doctrine) is acceptable to God.
 - Human good is Satan's counterfeit to divine good.
 - Many Christians live in the area of strength, self-deceived, and judgmental.
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VII. The Danger of Moral Degeneracy

- **1 Corinthians 3:12–15**: Works evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 - Gold, silver, precious stones (divine good) vs. wood, hay, straw (human good).
 - Loss of reward, not salvation.
 - **Definition**: Moral degeneracy = functioning in the area of strength with arrogance, legalism, self-promotion (cf. Pharisee).
 - **Contrast**: Immoral degeneracy = area of weakness (e.g., drunkenness, adultery).
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VIII. Recovery and Spiritual Growth

1. **Galatians 3:3**
 - Foolishness of trying to perfect oneself by the flesh after beginning by the Spirit.
 2. **1 John 1:9**
 - Confession restores fellowship and the filling of the Spirit.
 3. **Galatians 5:16–25**
 - Walk by the Spirit, not the flesh.
 - Fruit of the Spirit is produced by God, not self-effort.
 4. **Romans 12:2**
 - Transformation by renewing the mind through doctrine.
 5. **2 Timothy 3:16–17**
 - All Scripture is God-breathed, profitable for teaching, correction, training in righteousness.
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IX. The Doctrine of Propitiation (Preview)

- **Propitiation:** God's satisfaction with Christ's sacrifice; the "mercy seat" (Greek: hilasterion; Hebrew: kipporeth).
 - Ark of the Covenant: Sin inside, covered by the mercy seat, blood applied.
 - God sees the sacrifice, not the sin.
 - **Deuteronomy:** God meets us at the mercy seat.
 - **Implication:** Salvation is secure because it is based on God's satisfaction, not our performance.
 - **Eternal Security:** You cannot lose what you did not earn; salvation is God's work, not man's.
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X. Application and Exhortation

- **Consistency in Doctrine:** Daily intake of the Word is essential for spiritual growth and stability.
- **Grace Orientation:** Extend grace to others who have not been taught sound doctrine.

- **Testimony:** Transformation comes through the power of God's Word, not self-effort or external reform.
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XI. Closing Prayer

- Thanksgiving for the nourishment of the Word.
 - Petition for grace, spiritual growth, and safe travels.
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Scripture References (Chronological Order)

1. 1 John 1:9
2. Exodus 3–4 (Moses' call, referenced)
3. Matthew 21:31–32
4. Matthew 11:19
5. Luke 15:1
6. John 1:17
7. Luke 18:9–14
8. Romans 5:12
9. Romans 6:6
10. James 1:14–15
11. Isaiah 64:6
12. Galatians 5:19–23
13. 1 Corinthians 3:12–15
14. Galatians 3:3
15. 1 John 1:9 (repeated)
16. Galatians 5:16–25
17. Romans 12:2
18. 2 Timothy 3:16–17

Key Exegetical Notes

- **Contempt** (Luke 18:9): Greek—disgust, hatred, disrespect.
 - **Histēmi** ("stand"): Pharisee—aorist passive participle (posturing, self-righteousness); Tax collector—perfect active participle (ongoing humility).
 - **Isaiah 64:6**: "Filthy garment" = menstrual cloth (Hebrew).
 - **Propitiation**: Greek hilasterion = mercy seat; Hebrew kipporeth.
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Summary Principles

- Salvation and spirituality are by grace, not works.
- The sin nature has both an area of weakness (immorality) and an area of strength (self-righteous morality).
- Human good is not divine good; only what is produced by the Spirit counts for eternity.
- Propitiation assures eternal security: God is satisfied with Christ's sacrifice, and thus with the believer.
- Consistent intake and application of Bible doctrine is the only path to spiritual growth and victory.

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