

Good News! The Story of our Salvation Part 3

Please Stand and open your bibles to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Pray.

Please now open your Bibles to Genesis 1.

We know in Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

That is our Theology We also know in our Christology...

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

And...

Colossians 1:16-17

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

In * creation on the 6th Day...

Genesis 1:26-31

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over [g]all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God creates man and women and gives them gifts and says of all this that is it is "Very Good"

Drop * down to Genesis 2:7-9

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the

sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God breaths life into man and again we see him in the gift that God has created for him.

God * provides him a purpose and a choice in Genesis 2:15-17

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Then * He gives him a help mate...

Genesis 2:18-25

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him." 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He [h]made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

23 And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man.”

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Before we even get to chapter three, we find the man in a perfect environment and in the joy of God’s creation. A life of purpose and meaning filled with fellowship with God and nature. We know what happens in chapter three. Eve is deceived and Adam transgresses. They recognize their mistake and try to cover it up.

Their sin and God’s response

Genesis 3:7-20

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?”

10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"

12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."

13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And you shall eat dust
All the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

16 To the woman He said:

“I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception;
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”

17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed is the ground for your sake;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.

18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.

19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread
Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return.”

20 And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

And * finally, we read in Genesis 3:21

Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

The reason I took us through all this is because how you see God in creation is how you will see God toward yourself. If He is the hard master that has made man to do His bidding and when they screw up, you hear the voice of an arresting officer saying with a scowl “Where are you!”. This image will give you a mistaken view of God and the gospel message. But if you see Him as a benevolent creator that takes pleasure in what He has made you will hear him as a sorrowful Father who is crying “Where are you?”.

It becomes all about perception. In our fallen state we have lost sight of Who God is. Many have seen and preach a gospel that is all about getting out of hell. They present a God with a hammer to smash anyone who sins and then sweep the pieces into the everlasting fire. Our problem with the world is not how they behave but how they see God. Satan would have you see God the way he made Eve see Him. A God that is trying to keep you from something. Keep you from having a life. A God of “Do Nots” instead of one who wants to give you something. The world has listened to the lies of Satan and through this process. He has craftily created in the minds of men a concept of God that is all a lie and has become the father on all world religions. All of them have the same common theme...you have to do something to earn favor from your god. It is your works that will give you your heart’s desire to have that purpose and meaning we lost in the garden. Knowing this will help you understand God’s purpose for the sharing of His gospel message.

No as we continue our study here is our outline, we have been working with...

- What is the Gospel?
- How is it Preached?
- How is it Received?

Last time we looked at...

- How it was preached to the Jews
- How it was preached to the Gentiles
- How it was preached in a mixed audience
- We will see that it was the same message.

This week we will look at How it is received.

We will start with a few over the next few lessons...

- What does it mean to Repent?
- What does it mean to Believe?
 - By Grace
 - Through Faith
 - How to be Born Again
- The Holy Spirit's work in Salvation
 - God's Part
 - Man's Part
- What is Justification
 - A finished work
 - Forever secured

We will then look at few other ways people look at these things, mainly Calvinism, Armenism, and Lordship Salvation

Before we get to our first point let's go to the last presentation of the gospel to a gentile crowd

How * is it Received?

Acts 17:15-34

In Paul's presentation of the gospel, he says something very important that we will deal with today...

Acts 17:30

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands **all men everywhere to repent.**

This is important because it is what Jesus said...

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Now we know the purpose of the use of this word was different by distinction of the group, but we will see the meaning is the same.

Repent:

Metanoeo

Meta = Change or transform

Noeo = The mind, to perceive, to understand

In using Greek words in their context, you must translate them accordingly. Let us start with Jesus...

Mark 1:15

...saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand (In your midst). Repent (Change your mind or your way of thinking), and believe in the gospel."

What * was their way of thinking that needed to change?

Was * it their bad behavior? No!

Was * it that they thought their works made them right before God? Yes!

Let's take that same way of using context over to the Gentiles in Acts 17...

Acts 17:30

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent (Change your mind or way of thinking)

*Why?

Acts 17:31

because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

So then what does it mean to repent and believe?

Unfortunately, even I have been led to think that it means more than what it says. Some of our tracts we have get it completely wrong in thier description of repent * in which they describe it as to “Turn from your sins”. Let me ask you, when you got saved was it because you stopped sinning? No. Turning * from our sin is a product of our salvation not the source of it!

This is why Repent and Believe are two sides of the same coin. Both deal with thinking. You agree with God about your sin and put your faith in His remedy for it.

Remember our text for this series...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 15:1-2

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved.

Do you see your works anywhere in there?

Why * are there people that say that it is to turn from your sins?

It takes us back to our perception of Genesis 1-3. Is God a cruel task master or a heartbroken Father?

We will get into this more as we continue our series. The infection of Calvinism has infected evangelicalism in very bad way and is giving the world a bad picture of God. The gospel is good news. Yes, there is bad news. God is a righteous judge. But He is also a loving Father that...

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

When you realize that, the way you think about God changes, and you can now see...

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to

condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

He knows we are sinners and chose to love us and give salvation anyway!

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still (In Greek: still sinful to be we, in other words that since we still are!) sinners, Christ died for us.

See, the gospel is Good News! You can be saved by simply agreeing with God that you are a sinner and need a savior. Put your trust in Him and you will be saved!