

Sermon Notes for October 16, 2005

Understanding Basic Biblical Theology And Its Impact On Your Life

The Person and Work of Jesus Christ To Save Man From His Sin “Why Did Jesus Have to Die?” John 19:28-37

Introduction

A. Have YOU EVER WONDERED Why Jesus Had To Die On The Cross?

1. Why are there **so many hymns about blood and death?**
 - a. “There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood”
 - b. “Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed”
 - c. “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus”
 - d. “Are You Washed in the Blood?”
 - e. “At the Cross”
 - f. “Jesus, the Blood and Righteousness”
2. Is the story of the Christian faith a “bloody message?”

B. SOME Look At The Bible And WONDER If Jesus Needed To Die On The Cross.

1. **Albert Schweitzer**, a medical missionary of the 1920’s in Africa wrote a book called **The Quest For The Historical Jesus**.
 - a. in this book, Schweitzer wrote that Jesus did not come to be the Messiah, but a prophet and a teacher of His people; a type of philanthropist
 - b. and that it was not God’s will at all that He die on a cross
 - c. so that as Jesus was dying on the cross, He said
 1. it is finished???
 2. instead of IT IS FINISHED!!!
2. Ultimately, we have to ask the question: **Did Jesus Christ have to die and why?**

C. After Today, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO WONDER AGAIN About This Question.

1. We are going to take a walk through the entire Bible, the Old and the New Testaments to see why Jesus had to die.
2. Now . . . let me say that if you do not believe in the Bible, you will merely leave this place with a clearer understanding of what Christians believe.
3. But, if you do believe the Bible, you will be given a complete presentation from the Bible of why Jesus died and gave His blood for our sins.

I. The Gospel CONCEALED (In The Old Testament).

A. The CAUSE Of The Gospel.

1. The only way to truly understand why Jesus had to die is to **go back to the beginning, to the book of Genesis**.
 - a. for, do we see any indications from the creation story that would warrant Jesus’ death?

- b. otherwise it looks as if Jesus was simply **dragged** to the cross. As Dr. Albert Switzer saw it, He was killed against His will, saying “It is finished?????”
- 2. Well, when we go back to the beginning, we realize that God created man PERFECTLY.
 - a. sinless, in perfect communion with God
 - b. but God had to see if man could continue in this perfect state-
 - 1. God would “**test**” man to see if he could be obedient
 - 2. God placed two types of trees in the garden - the tree of life and the tree of good and evil
 - a. if man ate from the tree of life, he would live for ever: that’s why it was called the tree of life
 - b. however, and THIS IS CRITICAL, God was as “clear as a bell” in **Genesis 2:17** - “You must **not** eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it **YOU WILL SURELY DIE**”
 - 1. God “did not stutter”
 - 2. God did not debate
 - 3. **God clearly said - if you disobey, YOU WILL SURELY DIE!**
 - 3. we know that man did not obey God and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
 - a. now, based **on God’s requirement**, man **AND GOD HAD A REAL PROBLEM**
 - 1. **DESPITE** God’s **CLEAR WARNING**, man sinned
 - 2. **now, what does God do?**
 - a. does God let man off the hook?
 - b. or does God keep His Word?
 - c. in this week’s **Knoxville News Sentinel**:
 - 1. **Tommy Joe Owens** was found guilty of physically abusing his 3 year old daughter. “The little girl suffered multiple bruises, burns, cuts and a scalded bottom, and her eyes were swollen shut from what investigators said they believed was a household cleaning product.”
 - 2. “**Carissa Marie Roraus** is being charged with premeditated murder and aggravated child abuse in the death of her baby.”

3. **Senator Bill Frist** is being accused of illegally earning tens of thousands of dollars by selling his stocks in a family owned hospital business
- d. should guilty people be punished for their crimes?
 1. O.J. Simpson
 2. borrow a brand new black truck
- b. we **MUST** see that God had a problem with man
 1. **AND IF GOD IS GOD, AND HE IS – THEN HE MUST PUNISH THEIR SIN**
 2. after all God cannot deny His Word!

B. The CREATION Of The Gospel.

1. **ALREADY** in the book of Genesis we see God’s plan to solve this problem
 - a. **And, GOD CAN’T “FORGET IT” or “OVERLOOK” IT – CAN HE?**
 - b. instead, he plans to ‘fix it’ - **Genesis 3:15** -to the tempter (Satan) He says: **“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers: He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”**
 - c. **ALREADY** God is preparing to regain the broken relationship
 1. because it was not fixed
 2. in fact, it wouldn’t be fixed for a long, long time
2. God’s plan would involve the following process:
 - a. God had warned man that his death would be required because of his disobedience
 - b. God stated this clear requirement in **Genesis 9:4-6** “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. **I will demand an accounting from every animal.** And from each man, too, **I will demand an accounting** for the life of his fellowman. “Whoever sheds the blood of man, **by man shall his blood be shed**; for in the image of God has God made man.”
 1. **THIS** is the solution of God
 - a. if you are guilty of sin, your life or lifeblood **WILL BE REQUIRED**
 - b. **THIS IS GOD’S ACCOUNTING METHOD**
 2. we **must** see this requirement throughout Scripture if we are to understand the death of Jesus on the cross

C. The CALL For The Gospel.

1. Because man has sinned, he is banished from the garden.
 - a. away from the light of life
 - b. away from God’s presence
 - c. into the darkness
2. And when man leaves the light of the garden, he **EXPRESSES** his new found sin immediately.
 - a. Cain, the very first son of Adam and Eve, kills his brother

- b. the world begins to be populated, but man becomes so wicked that God has to destroy the entire earth
Genesis 6:5 “The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.”
- c. man had become “so sinful” that God wiped out most of the people of the world by a catastrophic flood

D. The CHARACTER Of The Gospel.

1. But it was also obvious that God **DESIRED** to be in a relationship with man
 - a. so why didn’t God simply re-engage with man?
 1. because a holy God could not co-exist with unholy man
 - a. oil and water
 - b. magnets from opposite poles
 2. until man made restitution for his sin, there would be a division between God and man
 - b. but God does not wait on man to fix the problem. **God initiates this restitution Himself**
2. **Evidences** of God’s desire to be in a relationship with man.
 - a. **first of all, God provided laws for man to obey Him**
 1. BECAUSE man was blinded by sin and darkness, he needed SPECIFIC rules to obey God
 - a. before the fall of man into sin, man was holy and did not “need” laws to obey
 - b. but man was now a sinner and was “prone” toward sin. He needed spiritual direction.
 2. these laws would keep man obedient until the **real** solution came
 - b. **secondly, God provided a means for sinful man to continue to worship Him**
 1. **The Tabernacle**
 - a. a sacrifice of an animal was offered by the shedding of blood
 - b. the tabernacle was TOTALLY symbolic of the need for sacrifice
 1. man was PREVENTED from entering the Holy Place
 2. a veil 30 x50 feet, the thickness of a hand, did not allow man to enter God’s presence
 2. **The Priests**
 - a. BECAUSE man was sinful, God created the Priestly system; religious men who helped mediate between a holy God and sinful man
 - b. because man was sinful he could not merely walk into God’s presence on his own

3. The Scapegoat (Leviticus 16-17)

- a. on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest was to take two goats
 - 1. the one goat was to be killed - the blood spilled
 - 2. while the other goat would be taken to the desert, the High Priest placed his hand upon the goat, transferring the sins of the people and then let the goat go until he disappeared over the horizon
- b. one goat gave its lifeblood, the other “took” the sins away

E. The CONFUSION Of The Gospel.

- 1. Do you see what is happening in the Old Testament?
 - a. man had fallen into sin; therefore he was a sinner
 - b. but . . . God GREATLY DESIRED to be in a relationship with man, but COULD NOT because of man’s sin
 - c. God would send a solution but it was not yet here
 - 1. these were “temporary solutions”
 - 2. but God and man are still estranged
- 2. And yet, these “hidden” Old Testament signs would finally be “revealed” in the New Testament.

II. The Gospel REVEALED (In The New Testament).

A. The ANNOUNCEMENT Of The Gospel.

1. The PRIVATE ANNOUNCEMENT Of The Gospel.

- a. the entrance of the solution to the problem of sin into the world was a **HUGE EVENT**
 - 1. although the news was first presented to mere shepherds, the message from heaven was abundantly clear!
 - a. **Luke 2:10b** -“I bring you **good news of a great joy** that will be for all the peoples today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; **He is CHRIST THE LORD.**”
 - b. **Vs. 13** -“Suddenly a great company of heavenly hosts appeared with the angel, **praising God and saying’ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.**”
 - 2. in other words:
 - a. **THE SOLUTION TO SINFUL MAN’S PROBLEM WITH A HOLY GOD IS HERE!**
 - b. THE “FIXER” of the problem is here!
 - c. the one who is going to make it right between God and man is here!
 - 1. for thousands of years, because of man’s sin; a holy God could not coexist with man
 - 2. **THE ONE WHO CAN FIX THE PROBLEM IS HERE!**

- b. but, there will also be a public announcement

2. The PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT Of The Gospel.

- a. now some thirty years later after the birth of Christ, there is a public announcement - notice what **John the Baptist** says after greeting Jesus: **John 1:29** “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!”
 1. John says publicly, **HE IS HERE!**
 2. **THE LAMB OF GOD IS HERE!**
- b. **WHAT ELSE COULD JOHN MEAN THAN A SACRIFICIAL LAMB!**

B. The APPEARANCE Of The Gospel.

1. Jesus had **no confusion as to His role.**
 - a. **John 10:15** -“I lay down **my life** for the sheep.”
 - b. **Matt 20:28** – “Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, **and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”
 - c. **Mark 10:33-34** - Jesus clearly told His disciples: “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man **will be betrayed** to the chief priests and teachers of the law. **They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.**”
2. Jesus had **total commitment to His role.**
 - a. in the final week of His life - He knew that the time to offer His sinless life for ours had come
 1. **He entered into Jerusalem** to the praise of children and adults, thus drawing criticism
 2. **He immediately went to the Temple**, overturning the tables, further angering the religious leaders
 3. He then proceeded **to preach against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders** - almost “provoking” the religious leaders to respond to Him
 4. and when He stood in front of Pilate and was questioned in full view of His captors
Matthew 26:63b-64 “Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. “**But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.**”
 - b. **THIS SOUNDS LIKE JESUS KNEW EXACTLY WHAT HE WAS DOING! – Dr. James M. Boice** – “Christ’s words were **not the final gasping sob of a defeated man or even the firm deliberate declaration of one who was resigned to his fate.** They were a **triumphant declaration** that the turning point in history had been reached and **that the work that Jesus had been sent into the world to do had been done.**”

C. The ACKNOWLEDGMENT Of The Gospel.

Vs. 30 – “**It is finished!**”

1. The **fulfillment** of the gospel.
 - a. after **thousands and thousands of years, IT IS OVER**
 - b. after **coming to this earth to pay for the sins of man, IT IS OVER**

- c. after years and years of **sacrificing animals and shedding of blood, IT IS OVER**
 - d. after **hearing prophecy after prophecy** about the Messiah's coming, **IT IS OVER**
 - e. Jesus Christ, the Messiah **HAS DIED FOR THE SINS OF MAN**
 - 1. He has been that sacrifice
 - 2. He has taken the wrath of God upon Himself
 - 3. and He screamed 'IT IS FINISHED!'
2. The **fact** of the gospel.
- a. we **CANNOT** miss the importance of the last words out of Jesus' mouth – **"It is finished"**
 - 1. its **meaning**
 - a. **archeologists** have discovered documents in which the word, it is finished, tetelestai, was used in Jesus' day
 - 1. **as a servant** – when a master told a servant to do something, after he had done the job, he would say "tetelestai"
 - 2. **as a merchant** – if someone purchased something from a merchant, after receiving the payment, the merchant would write on the ticket, "tetelestai"
 - 3. **as a painter** – after a painter would finish a painting, he would look at the painting and say "tetelestai"
 - 4. **as a Priest** – when a Priest was looking for the perfect lamb to sacrifice on the altar, he would use the Hebrew equivalent of, it is perfect – "tetelestai"
 - b. definition – the end; to carry out, to fulfill an obligation in **EVERY CASE** that the word was used in Jesus' day, it meant perfect, fulfilled, paid for
 - 2. its **tense**
 - a. **perfect tense**
 - 1. something that is done in the past that will affect the present and future forever
 - 2. Jesus' death happened in the past, but affects us forever – even into eternity
 - b. **passive voice**
 - 1. the action is done to the subject
 - 2. the wrath of God was placed on Jesus by God
 - c. **indicative mood**
 - 1. it is seen as a fact
 - 2. Jesus' death is not a hope or a wish. It is a historical fact.
 - b. we **MUST NOTE THE FINALITY OF JESUS' DEATH**
 - 1. once it was over, it was over!
 - 2. once it had been done, it did not need to be done again

3. The **fulfillment** of the gospel.
 - a. what has been finished CANNOT be added to!!!
 1. what Jesus did was **TOTALLY** pay for the sins of man upon the cross
 2. He does not need to do any more. IT IS DONE!
 - b. **AND THEREFORE, WE DO NOT NEED TO ADD TO HIS ALREADY FINISHED WORK!!!**
 1. we CANNOT “do better” or “be better” to make God accept us after we have trusted in Christ
 2. we don’t have to give more, do more or add to Jesus’ finished work
 3. **“A Christian farmer, deeply concerned over an unsaved neighbor, who was a carpenter, was trying to explain the gospel, especially the sufficiency of the finished work of Christ. But the carpenter persisted in believing that he had to do something himself. One day the farmer asked his friend to make a gate for him, and when it was finished he came for it and carried it away in his wagon. He hung it on a fence in his field and then arranged for the carpenter to stop by and see that it was hung properly. The carpenter came. But when he arrived he was surprised to see the farmer standing by with a sharp axe in his hand. “What is that for?” he asked. “I’m going to add a few strokes to your work,” was the answer. “But there’s no need to do that,” the carpenter protested. “The gate is perfect as it is. I did everything that was necessary.” The farmer took his axe and began to strike the gate anyway, keeping at it until in a short while it was ruined. “Look what you’ve done,” cried the carpenter. “You’ve ruined my work!” “Yes,” said his friend. “And that is exactly what you are trying to do. You are trying to ruin the work of Christ by your own miserable additions to it.” God used this lesson to show the carpenter his mistake, and he was led to cast himself upon what Christ had done for him.”**
4. the **faith** of the gospel
 - a. all that we have to do is to accept, by faith, Jesus finished work for us
 - b. His death must “become” our death
 1. even in the Old Testament, it was “faith” that saved you
 - a. the High Priest would place his hand on the scarifies; thus transferring the guilt of the people on the goat
 - b. there was a step of faith, even in the Old Testament
 2. **Colossians 3:3** – “For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”

Conclusion:

1. I hope today that you have understood why Jesus Christ “had” to die on the cross for your sins and mine.
2. **However, it is not enough that you simply understand it.**
 - a. we **MUST** accept the work of Christ for us by trusting Him
 1. **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever **believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life."
 - a. Old Testament usage of trust in the Hebrew
 - b. New Testament usage of believe in the Greek
 2. **John 1:12** - Yet to **all who received him**, to those who **believed in his name**, he gave the **right** to become children of God."
3. Will you accept the finished work of Christ for you?

Dr. Mel Cheatham is clinical professor of neurosurgery. **In 1993** he was asked to organize a medical team to establish a **neurosurgery department** in a hospital in a war torn part of the world. He went to work in a 600 bed hospital for the **Bosnian Muslim** army helping **Dr. Jurisic, the only neurosurgeon in the hospital**. With a flashlight for light he operated on a badly wounded soldier, **removing a bullet**. The soldier was then placed on a ventilator.

That night the **hospital's supply of diesel fuel ran out, the generator failed, the ventilator stopped and the patient died**. The next morning Dr. Jurisic took him aside and told him the bad news. **He then told him that since he had operated on the man he feared the people would come for him and kill him**. Therefore, **Dr. Jurisic told Dr. Cheatham, "I have changed the medical record, I have erased your name as surgeon and I have written in my name in place of yours."**

Dr. Cheatham says, **"I looked into the eyes of this compassionate man and felt a lump in my throat that I couldn't swallow away and I didn't know what to do or say. "At that moment," he said, "years and years of Sunday school, sermons and books about the Christian life fell away. When I looked at Dr. Jurisic holding the operative report with his name in place of mine, I thought of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, who was willing to take my place and die for me on the cross."** Finally, **Dr. Cheatham** said to **Dr. Jurisic**, **"But, surely, my friend, that means they will come for you, and they will kill you."** He responded, **"I am prepared to die in your place if I must, in order that you might live."** "In that moment," **Dr. Cheatham** said, **"God's great gift of eternal life had new meaning to me."**

