

YOU

Bible Study

Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity

To be used with: The Nature of Sin

Sermon Title Possibilities: Sin Impacts All of Us

Scripture: Romans 3:9-12; 23-24

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “The Nature of Sin,” this sermon will provide an accurate and biblical look at the fact that sin impacts all of us. We will study the bad news of this truth and look at the hope apart from sin found only in a relationship with Christ.

Introduction: Many people would say that all you need to do is be a good person and you will get to go to heaven. Those who believe this way then go on to define themselves as being good. But can anyone pass the “I am a good person” test. Ask this series of questions to the congregation: Have you even taken something that does not belong to you? It could be a pen from the office or the answer to a test question. Have you ever had anger in your heart? Have you ever taken the Lord’s name in vain? If you answered yes to any of these or similar questions, then sin has had impact in your life. Today’s message will give us the bad news tied to sin. But we will see the good news of hope found in a Christ.

1. The bad news

a. We are all under sin (v. 9 & 23)

We have two key words to look at in verses 9 & 23. First is the word “all”. This word shows that every one of us is impacted by sin. Yes, we can strive to be good. But none of us will ever been good enough. Furthermore, all it takes is one sin to condemn us. James told the persecuted church, “whoever keeps the entire law, and yet stumbles at one point, is guilty of breaking it all” (2:10).

Our second word to take note of is “under”. This word in the original language means to be governed by someone or something. Even though we might strive to be a good person, according to God’s word it is sin that is governing us.

b. No one is righteous (v. 10)

The word righteous means to be in right relationship with someone. If a husband and wife are striving to communicate with each other, serve one another and meet each other’s needs, then they are striving to be in a righteous relationship with each other.

According to verse 10 there is no one who is in a right relationship with God apart from a relationship with Jesus. We can work as hard as we want to work, but we will not achieve the right relationship with God on our own.

c. We have all turned away (v. 12)

In case there is any doubt as to the bad news tied to sin, Paul tells us that we have all turned away. The phrase indicates a personal choice in which the person no longer places his trust or confidence in something or someone. The key to this phrase is that it is a personal choice. We have no one to blame but yourselves in all of this.

2. The good news (v. 24)

If we ended this sermon here, we would all walk away depressed. The Bible, however, provides us hope. Our hope is not found in our own so called good works, but rather in and through a relationship with Jesus.

a. Those who believe are justified

All those who have placed their faith in Christ and believe Him to be the Son of God are justified. The word justified is a legal term in that means to be declared righteous. Furthermore, this is written to indicate that our justification is pronounced again and again. Even as we find ourselves engaged in sinful behavior that we do not desire, God continually declares us to be righteous because of our relationship with Him through Christ.

b. Justification is found via grace

The Scripture also tells us how we can receive our right standing before the Father. The good news is that it is freely given to us and we can't earn it. This free gift is found via grace. The word grace is best defined as God's unconditional love expressed towards us. We see from the first part of the sermon that we don't deserve His love. He knows this and freely bestows grace upon us anyway.

Conclusion: Some may see God as an angry type figure who seeks to punish every one He encounters. The Bible provides a completely different view. Instead of being judgmental, He provides warning in that we are all sinful. Instead of seeking to punish, He sent Jesus to take on our punishment for us. We have to understand the bad news of sin in order to get to the good news of Jesus. Our justification and redemption is only found in a relationship with Jesus. Do not leave here today without this relationship.

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