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Living Hope EFC

Art Smith

"God's means of getting men into heaven has always been by grace. Abraham and David are proof of this." Rom.3:26-31

INTRO: Dr. Huegel, *The Cross of Christ*, 56-57.

"Sin is something so heinous and so infamous and so revolting and so contrary to the orderly ways of the universe, that God would lose, so to speak, all self-respect if he forgave it lightly. He dare not forgive without expressing His inconceivable loathing for sin. That is why He Himself came and bore its just penalty, which is death. He does not forgive without dealing with sin as it deserves. Therefore He Himself as Man assumed all the guilt- 'He was bruised for our iniquities.' He dare not forgive a thing so black, and so hellish, and so infamous, without it be on a basis of a full satisfaction of all the requirements of a holy law- 'the chastisement of our peace was upon him.'

The sinner once enlightened...see all this. Why, the fact of the matter is, he himself would lose respect for a God who would jeopardize the moral purity and the spiritual beauty of His Kingdom by and light dealing with sin...Something in his own soul would for ever keep him away from God, if he (the sinner) could not see his way clear to a satisfactory dealing with his sin and guilt. Apart from whether God would receive him as a sinner into His bosom, he himself would never have the courage to cast himself into his Father's arms if there were no satisfactory settling of his sin accounts. I could never enjoy the company Of a man to whom I owed \$100,000 and whom I could never pay what I owed. IF I am to be at home in his presence my obligation must somehow first be met. Even if God were to receive the sinner without the Cross, which-if Scripture is no lie-is a false hope, *still the fact remains that the sinner could not receive God* on such a basis. He (the sinner) is, in spite of his degradation, a moral being made in the image of God...An unforgiven sinner must condemn himself – it is law. But God, if He would, could not pass our forgiveness as you would pass out candy. The sinner must have something which will give him the courage to approach One whom he has wronged so deeply as he has his God; something which will for ever settle sin's accounts."

ILLUS: Mephibosheth – 2 Sam.9.

-Mephibosheth was a son of Jonathan, David's best-loved friend.

- After Saul and Jonathan's death, and the kingdom was established in David's hands, David asked if there were any sons of Jonathan alive.
- Think in terms of the Middle East and political changes in ruling families. No doubt when David's men came for Mephibosheth he feared the worst.
- Mephibosheth was crippled in both feet. When he came to David the riches of David's grace surprised him. "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness **for the sake of your father Jonathan**. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to Saul, and you will always eat at my table." – 9:7

- “For Jonathan’s sake.” It had nothing to do with the worthiness of unworthiness of Mephibosheth. It was David’s response toward one related to his beloved friend, Jonathan. He now ate at the king’s table. All disability, inadequacy & unworthiness covered by grace.

APPLY: Paul explains in Romans three, that it has nothing to do with our efforts or inability to keep God’s Law, but because of God’s love for His Son, Jesus Christ, and the accomplishments of His Son in our behalf – we can now sit at the King’s table in God’s presence – and not fear judgment. All unworthiness covered by grace! Redemption.

The Cross alone was/is able to pay our full debt against God and give us courage to approach Him, and to know we are accepted.

- Rom.1:18-3:20 All men are guilty and unable to rid their guilt.
- Rom. **3:21-25** God provided a way for all man’s guilt to be removed by carrying out His judgment against our sin, upon Jesus Christ.
- God can now declare “righteous” all who believe in His Son.
- *Justification is not the legalizing of a fiction, but the recognition of a fact*, based upon God’s **real gift** of righteousness given to the believer
- **Because God has not dealt with our sin lightly**, not overlooked even one sin, but righteously carried out the sentence against every sin, and given us a “paid in full” receipt/ promise = we can rest in His presence: **Col.1 & 2**, Rom.6:23; **John** 3:16, **5:24**.

Colossians 1

¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, **the forgiveness of sins**.

Colossians 3

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. **He forgave us all our sins**, ¹⁴having anceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross

*“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me **has** eternal life and will not be condemned; he **has** crossed over from death to life.*

- We will never be confronted with our sin, because our sin has already been confronted by God’s wrath – in Christ.

PAUL MENTIONS SEVERAL RESULTS OF THE CROSS:

1- 3:25-26 It leaves God just in justifying **all** believers in Jesus

- People on both sides of the cross are saved on the same basis.
- All looked to God’s promised provision. OT were **saved “on credit.”**
- From man’s standpoint: faith in God’s promised salvation is required.
- From God’s standpoint: Lamb of God has taken away sin of world.

2- 3:27-30 It removes all **boasting** from Jew and Gentile alike.

- Law, personal achievement, obedience – is the ground for boasting.
- But none can keep the law. None can remove his sins. We can't even keep man's laws – let alone God's.
- Adam & Eve deliberately disobeyed God, so have all since.
- **The Day of Atonement** – was a Day of **admitting failure** to keep Law
 - **The H.P.** sacrificed for all Israel's sins: **Lev.16.** –

3- 3:31 It establishes the Law and demonstrates its true purpose.

- Paul asks and answers the question that would naturally come into the Jews mind. "*Are you saying the Law is purposeless?*"
- "No." That r'ness comes only by faith in Christ is exactly what the Law was designed to demonstrate. **We establish the Law: Gal.3:24.**
- **"So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith."**
- The problem: the Jew didn't understand the Law's purpose: **10:1-4.**
- Paul has already taught that the O.T. testified to r'ness *apart from law.*
- **Salvation by faith is nothing new. It's as old as sin. –Gen.3:15.**

There is no salvation for any person, before the cross or after the cross, on any basis other than grace!

Next week we'll see two great examples of OT people proving Paul's argument.

By the way...do you hope to enter heaven on the basis of your own works? Consider - not even Abraham or David can make such a boast or claim. Do you really think you can?