

Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008
Living Hope EFC

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Jesus Christ: A Savior for Times like Ours!

ILLUS: Article – “In Crisis, Wall Street Turns to Prayer.”
- Christianity Today, 9.25.08

“I have never seen grown men cry like that.” One Wallstreeter said.
“Their savings have disappeared in 15 minutes.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 23 This is what the LORD says:

“Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast about this:

that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight,”
declares the LORD.

God is the only One Who never changes, is totally just, always loves, & is the same –
from eternity to eternity.

- As Creator of all, He is our ever-present help in times of need.

MY THEME: [Jesus Christ is a Savior for times like ours!](#)

OUR PROBLEM: **We live in a culture that is unraveling, because we live in a world full of sinners in need of Savior, whom we’ve increasingly rejected!**

1. **Headlines**-crime/sin. Look at the paper any day of the week.
2. **Ravi Zacharias:** Noting King Manasseh, sandwiched between 2 of the most historic reformations in Israel. “[Any nation at any time - however spiritually alive - is potentially only a generation away from paganism and mind defying evil.](#)” - *Deliver us from Evil*, 128.
3. This is not just my idea – but God’s pronouncement.
4. **Romans 3:9** “The Charge...All men are Under Sin.”
What does this mean? Paul is not saying:
 - All men have sinned, though this is true.
 - All men are sinners, though this is true.
 - All men are guilty, though this is true.
 - He is saying much more...Something much worse!

It is the language of the court of law.

- “**Under sin**” = under the total reign, dominion, power, penalty.
- Rom.3:23; 6:23; 7:14-17; 8:7-8 = [Man cannot obey God's will.](#)
- **Jesus** explained: **Mark 7:20-23** Man’s heart is the problem.

- We might think that **religion** would help: -The religious sin less!
- Jews! - Rom.3:9,1-2; 2:17, 24. Not so! Jesus = John 8:34, 36
- **Paul's 14 count indictment against man! Rom.3:10-18.**
- **Ps.130:3** "IF you kept a record of sins, Lord who could stand?"

POINT: Sin is universal, in all men, women, kids. Rom.3:23.

It does not mean

All men will indulge in every sin.
Man has no consciousness of God.

Man no longer retains the
Image of God.

We seek sin in its highest,
and worst intensity.

It does mean

Any man can do any sin.
Man is totally unable to do
anything about his sinful state.

God's image is marred.

We have a total absence of
Holiness. No spiritual life!

SECOND PROBLEM: Not only does sin separate us from our rightful relationship with God, it harms other relationships.

- *Greed:* What harm does it do? Wallstreet??
- *Hatred?*=Uncontrolled anger? Child abuse? Spousal abuse?
- *Murder?* *Drugs:* - Meth- incurable! The cause of break ins, assaults, murders, deaths!"
- *Immorality:* STD's. Guilt. Self-gratification at expense of another's conscience, soul, value. *Abortions.* *Divorces...*

Q: Is there an answer to SIN'S ravages devouring our culture?

YES: there is an answer. **Jesus Christ: A Savior for Times like Ours.**

HOW can Jesus Christ save us from sin's tyranny?
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1 Sin must be acknowledged for what it is!

- *We won't agree to the treatment until we admit the disease.*
- **ILLUS:** Girl at store. Selling tickets for domestic violence house.
- "I don't believe all people have a sin nature. They are products of their environment."
- Q: Do you know one person, any age, anywhere in the world, who hasn't/ doesn't sin?
- God only saves the ungodly – Rom.4:5. No help for righteous.

2 Sin must be rendered powerless over us.

- 1 John 3:8 "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."
- **John 1:29** "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."
- **Rom.6:14** "**Sin shall not be your master!**" **6:2.** You died to sin!
- **Jesus, by His death, made a way for us to be freed from sin.**

3 We must be restored to a personal relationship with God & be given a new quality of life – to live toward others.

First: Restored to a personal relationship with God.

ILLUS: Russian General. Dr. Huegel, *The Cross of Christ*, 121-22.

A true story. A Russian general issued a decree in the province where he governed. Any person breaking it would be punished with 100 lashes. The general's own mother was the first to break it

- HOW was he to punish in this cruel manner his own mother?
- And yet if his word wasn't kept? If the law failed to inflict his just penalty? If justice was trivialized and made a plaything of favoritism...wouldn't his government become a farce?
- Justice, to remain righteous, can't show favoritism to personal preferences, money or any other considerations.
- BUT there was also love. Wasn't love more important?

What did the general do? He ordered his soldiers to carry out the sentence. But before one lash fell on his mother, he took her place. Upon his back fell the full 100 lashes!

GOD'S dilemma regarding us is exactly the same.

- He cannot lightly overlook our sin. His Throne issued a decree
- And yet – there is God's love of us?
- **HOW can God demonstrate His love, and yet fulfill His justice?**
- **He did what the Russian general did.**
- “The punishment that brought us peace = upon Him. **Is.53:5-6**
- **1 Pet.2:24** “He himself bore our sin in His body on the cross.”
- **1 Per.3:18.** “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.”
- “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”

“**In the cross of Christ God's justice and love are simultaneously revealed.** God's holiness establishes a standard which only the Cross could satisfy.”

In the Greek N T– 2 prepositions reveal Christ's substitution for us.

1 – **ANTI** = “In place of, instead of.” Used 20 times.

- **Matt.20:28** & Mark10:45 “For the Son of Man did not come to serve, but be served, and to give his life a ransom for/ in place of many.”
- Jesus, himself, paid the price for human sin; “in our place.”

2 – **UPER** = “In behalf of” & “**in place of.**” Used 160 times.

- Example: Phile 13 “So he (Onesimus) could *take your place.*”
- 1 Pet.3:18. In **Rom.5:6-8.** (Paul uses it four times).

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died **for (in place of)** the ungodly. 7Very rarely will anyone die **for (in place of)** a righteous man, though **for (in place of)** a good man someone might possibly dare to die. 8But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died **for (in place of)** us.”

ILLUS: Lincoln's Substitute – Lee Tan, 5223

In Stroudsburg, PA there is a grave of a Civil War soldier. The stone bears the date of his birth and death, and then says:
'Abraham Lincoln's substitute.'

In the anguish of the war, realizing that thousands of soldiers were dying that he & others might live, he chose to symbolize this by honoring one particular soldier as his substitute.

- The wages of sin is death. Christ died **in our place** to satisfy God's justice, while demonstrating his love for us.
- Heb.2:9 "By the grace of God He tasted death for everyone"
- 2 Cor.5:21. Gal.3:13 "He redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us." Heb.10:12,14.

WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?

Christ became our legal Substitute, dying that we might live.

- **The moral demands of God's government against man's sin were infinitely satisfied, by the sacrifice of God's Son.**
- The moral restraint removed, the immeasurable love of God is free to act in behalf of those who will receive his grace by faith.

NOTE:

Payment does not require the sinner's discharge against our will.

- We must receive Christ, personally, as our Savior, or none of His accomplishments do us any good. We receive him by faith. We put our trust in Him as the only one who can take our sins away and give us eternal life in God's presence.
- Have you put your trust in Christ as your Savior. If not, do it right now. [Make the decision to believe He is YOUR Savior.](#)

RESULTS OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION:

1- Forgiveness of sin.

God takes away the sin & condemnation of the sinner, having placed our sin and it's judgment upon Christ. Ps.103. **Acts 10:43** "All the prophets testify about him, that everyone who *believes* in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

- [Forgiveness is never extended as an act of leniency](#), only when the last demand of penalty against offender is paid.

2- Divine righteousness is given.

The sinner is officially "justified," declared righteous, freely!

- Salvation involves a subtraction: forgiveness of sins.
- And an addition: Christ's life in us – Col.1:27, and His righteousness a gift to us – **Rom.3:22 "This righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."**
- Also see: Rom.5:1,17; 2 Cor.5:21.

3 – We are given eternal life as a GIFT from God.

- **John 3:16; 5:24**; Rom.8:1,30

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."

John 5:24"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 are children of God John 1:12, Rom.8:17. –
- [Sin's power over us has been rendered powerless](#): Rom.6:6,22

[The believer is eternally clothed with the righteousness of God.](#)

"Our complete justification is so harmonious to divine jurisprudence that God is said to be "just" in justifying the believer.

God's own divine justice is now set in motion to defend to the end of eternity, our justification - based upon His Son.

The same righteousness of God that once condemned the sinner, will now defend his perfect standing in Christ, forever."

- Chafer, Vol.2, 278

NO APPROXIMATIONS

[We do not gradually come to our exalted position in Christ via struggle.](#)

[It is all a GIFT. All of Grace, because of Christ's merit.](#)

ILLUS: English Nobleman

The youngest son of a ruling family in England disgraced the family.

They told him if he left the country they would send him a regular allowance. If not - he would have nothing.

He moved to Canada & made arrangements to pick up his check once a quarter. And within days it would be gone and he'd eek out a living doing menial work.

He moved to the U.S....Meantime his father died and his brother was killed in a car accident within hours of his father's death. He was the legal heir to the throne.

His wife came to search for him. Detectives were hired. Finally, he was found in a small town outside Chicago - working as an elevator operator. He flew to N.Y. When the press found him he was getting fitted in a new wardrobe - befitting royalty. -Barnhouse, Vol.2, 46.

IF you have trusted in Christ as your Savior, you are a member of God's Family, a co-heir to heaven with Jesus Christ.

Your relationship with God is now "Father-to-son/daughter."

As His child, you now have new resources at your disposal to live in a way befitting Christ's disciple. We have Christ's life within.

We can be a part of the solution to the relational problems in our culture.

Q: Will we go on living as those estranged from the Royal Family, or as one who is heir to the full "riches of grace?"