

WHAT'S WRONG?

Hello neighbor. We live in a fallen world. Don't believe it? Watch the news. Talk to your neighbor. Government corruption, terrorist plots, gang activity, the meth and HIV epidemic, disintegrating race relations, gender politics, pornography abuse, abortion on demand, and sex trafficking. Look in the mirror. On and on goes the list of social ills. So what is the root problem? Is it a case of the haves versus the have nots? Is it Republicans or Democrats? Is it poverty? Racism? Unequal rights? Is it simply a result of oppressor versus the oppressed? Is Donald Trump to blame? The Word of God teaches us that at the center of all these societal problems, and the chaos present in your own life, is sin.

GOD'S VIEW OF US

Sin. Transgression of God's Law. The Holy Bible, God's inerrant Word, teaches that all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). That's right. You are a sinner. You sin with your thoughts, with your words, and with your deeds. Every thought of our heart is evil continually (Genesis 6:5), and there are none who do good, not even one (Romans 3:12). Born with a sin nature inherited from our first father Adam (Gen 3, Psalm 51, 1 Corinthians 15:21,22), mankind stands guilty before a Holy, Just, Perfect God, whose eyes are too pure to look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13).

BUT...I AM A GOOD PERSON

"I am a good person", you say. "I do good deeds". "I have never robbed anyone, or murdered anyone". My friend, of course when we compare our lives to those around us, all of us can find someone who is a little more depraved and say "Aha! I know I am better than him!" But the reality is, neither you, nor your neighbor are the standard. Your father, your mother, and definitely not the nice old lady next door, meet the standard of Holiness that God demands. He says "Be Holy, for I am Holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

In our world of absurdity and moral relativism, where every person seeks to live their lives according to their feelings, preferences, and subjective standards of morality, God's Word declares that it is He alone, Jesus Christ, Who sets the standard. Jesus, 100% man, 100% God, and 100% righteous. He Who knew no sin, became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Perhaps you say to yourself "Well, this talk of sin and holiness and Jesus may be true for you, but it isn't true for me". Friend, truth is not the subjective, fluid thing that mankind is currently making it out to be. Jesus Himself said that He alone is the "Way, truth, and life", and that no one comes to the Father but through Him (John 14:6). He also stated quite clearly that the Word of God is truth, and that it is through His Word that men, women, boys, and girls are sanctified, made holy and set apart (John 17:17).

There is no short supply of folks in our land who believe that "IF" there is a God, surely this God will accept our good deeds. Perhaps you believe that "IF" there is a God, surely He knows your heart and your good intentions and will accept you on the day of judgement. He does know your heart. He does understand your intentions. He has declared in his Word that every thought of our hearts are evil continually (Genesis 6:5) and that our thoughts are deceitful and wicked above all else (Jeremiah 17:9).

Here is our dilemma: if the Justice of God behaves akin to a giant set of scales in the heavens, weighing our good deeds versus our bad, and if our good deeds outweighed the bad, one problem still remains: our sin, our bad deeds, are still present, hanging on the other side of the balance, lifted up above all else. Friends, we cannot cover our own sin. We cannot hide our sins from Him, whose eyes are in every place (Proverbs 15:3).

So, the question before you today is,

WHAT IS YOUR HOPE IN?

Does your hope lie in the perishable things of this life: money, clothes, food, and health? Perhaps your faith is in your long ago baptism. As a child, did you walk an aisle, profess Jesus is Lord, pray a little prayer, and now, years later, find yourself trapped in sin, hopeless, and living a life contrary to the Word of God?