

The Cornerstone Vision, pt. 4 – The Romans Road

Mark 16:15-18 - 15 And [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

- sin = *hamartanó* = to miss the mark... used in Homer and elsewhere to refer to an archer shooting his arrow and missing the target
 - Made up of 2 words literally meaning “to have no share in”
- Quote: American Tract Society Bible Dictionary – “A single sin [left] unrepented... destroys the soul, [just] as a single break renders a whole ocean cable worthless”
- Quote: Susanna Wesley – “Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.”
- Charles Finney - *Breaking Up the Fallow Ground*
 - Sins of Omission – Things You Don’t Do Even Though You Should
 - Ingratitude (Lack of Thankfulness) – “Write down under this heading all the times you can remember where you have received great blessings and favors from God for which you have never given thanks. How many cases can you remember? Some remarkable protection where your life was spared, some wonderful turn of events that saved you from ruin. Write down the instances of God's goodness to you when you were still in sin, before your conversion, for which you have never been half-thankful enough - and the uncountable mercies you have received since. How long the list of times where your ingratitude has been so black that you are forced to hide your face in shame! Get on your knees and confess them one by one to God.”
 - Lack of Love for God
 - Neglect of the Bible
 - Unbelief
 - Lack of Prayer
 - Neglect of Fellowship
 - Lack of Love for the Lost
 - Lack of Care for the Poor and Lost in Foreign Lands
 - Neglect of Family Duties
 - Being Careless About Your Witness
 - Neglect of Self-Denial
 - Sins of Commission – Things You Do Even Though You Shouldn’t
 - Love of Possessions
 - Vanity
 - Envy
 - Bitterness
 - Slander and gossip
 - Lying
 - Cheating
 - Hypocrisy
 - Robbing God – misusing your time, money, and talents
 - Bad Temper
 - Hindering Others From Being Useful – wasting their time
- Romans 3:10 - as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one...”

Romans 6:23a - For the wages of sin is death...

- “wages” = *opsónion* = 2 words (meat + purchase)... money to buy meat... Later: money paid to soldiers to buy their rations, in exchange for their services
- Death comes in many ways:
 - Physical death
 - Spiritual death
 - Eternal death
- Quote: NT Wright in *Simply Good News: Why The Gospel Is News And What Makes It Good* - “The wrath of God is simply the shadow side of the love of God for his wonderful creation and his amazing human creatures. Like a great artist appalled at the way his paintings have been defaced by the very people who were supposed to be looking after them, God’s implacable rejection of evil is the natural outflowing of his creative love. God’s anger against evil is itself the determination to put things right, to get rid of the corrupt attitudes and behaviors that have spoiled his world and his human creatures. It is because God loves the glorious world he has made and is utterly determined to put everything right that he is utterly opposed to everything that spoils or destroys that creation, especially the human creatures who were supposed to be the linchpins of his plan for how that creation would flourish.”

Romans 6:23b – but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord

- “wages” of sin = payment for a job
- “free gift” = But God’s gift of eternal life is a free gift, not earned by our good works, just freely given
 - “free gift” = *charisma* = often translated “favor” or “grace”... God has shown us favor in offering eternal life, even though we’ve worked hard to earn ourselves eternal death.
- Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...

Romans 10:9-13 - ... 9 if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- 1. Believe that Jesus really did come to do what the Bible says – to die for our sins
- 2. Confess that He is Lord
- What Does it Mean to Believe in Jesus?
 - James 2:19 - You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!
- What Does it Mean to Confess that Jesus is Lord?
 - “confess” = *homologeó* = 2 words (same + to speak)... to speak the same thing, to voice agreement
 - “lord” = *kurios* = lord, master... a person exercising absolute ownership rights (an owner)