

2: The Human Condition

Romans 3:10-18

Many religions teach about forgiveness of sins. But they all believe we can do something to atone for them. And they then go on to tell us what we can do. But Christianity is different in that it tells us there is nothing we can do to atone for our sins. Our sins are so great, because we are so bad. We need a Saviour outside of ourselves to atone for them. And that is what Jesus Christ has done for all those who put their trust on Him.

But people follow other religions because they don't think we're that bad by nature. They want to think we can do it ourselves and don't need help from outside. The Bible says:

Genesis 6:5

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

[5] 耶和華見人在地上罪惡很大，終日所思想的盡都是惡，

God didn't make us like that. God originally made us upright, capable of doing good:

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

[29] 我所找到的只有一件，就是 神造人原是正直，但他们寻出许多巧计。

But God also gave the first man, Adam, a test. He put a tree in the middle of the garden to see what he would do with it:

Genesis 2:17

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

[17] 只是分别善恶树上的果子，你不可吃，因为你吃的日子必定死！

He did eat of the tree and he didn't seem to die. But death came into the world:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[23] 因为罪的工价乃是死；惟有神的恩赐，在我们的主基督耶稣里，乃是永生。

Adam physically died eventually, but at the moment of eating he died spiritually. And that is the condition all of us are born in. We are all born spiritually dead. We no longer have a free will to choose good, we naturally choose evil. You have to teach a child to do good,

he's naturally naughty, you don't have to teach him that. So that's why God said "every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

God had to judge the world, so He brought a great flood on the earth, which killed everybody apart from Noah and his family:

Genesis 7:1

And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

[1] 耶和华对挪亚说：你和你的全家都要进入方舟；因为在这世代中，我见你在我面前是义人。

But that didn't mean Noah wasn't still sinful like everybody else. After the flood he got drunk. Mankind hadn't changed. Man was still just as evil in his heart:

Genesis 8:21

And the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

[21] 就心里说：我不再因人的缘故咒诅地（人从小时心里怀着恶念），也不再按着我才行的灭各种的活物了。

But Noah was "seen righteous," not because he was righteous or had become righteous by his own effort, but because he saw his need of God to save him from his sins.

And that's the only way we can be "seen righteous" too.

10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

[10] 就如经上所记：没有义人，连一个也没有。

Our hearts are not right with God:

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

[9] 人心比万物都诡诈，坏到极处，谁能识透呢？

11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

[11] 没有明白的；没有寻求神的；

Nobody understands spiritual things:

1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

[14] 然而，属血气的人不领会神圣灵的事，反倒以为愚拙，并且不能知道，因为这些事惟有属灵的人才能看透。

And nobody seeks after God, They just seek after themselves:

1 Corinthians 15:32

Let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

[32] 若死人不复活，我们就吃吃喝喝罢！因为明天要死了。

12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

[12] 都是偏离正路，一同变为无用。没有行善的，连一个也没有。

So this renders people “out of the way” and “unprofitable,” deserving punishment:

Matthew 25:30

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[30] 把这无用的仆人丢在外面黑暗里；在那里必要哀哭切齿了。

13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

[13] 他们的喉咙是敞开的坟墓；他们用舌头弄诡诈，嘴唇里有虺蛇的毒气，[14] 满口是咒骂苦毒。

Our evil nature can be seen in two ways, our words and our actions. James says:

James 3:6

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

[6] 舌头就是火，在我们百体中，舌头是个罪恶的世界，能污秽全身，也能把生命的轮子点起来，并且是从地狱里点着的。

15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: [15] 杀人流血，他们的脚飞跑，

And our actions. We hate. Few of us are murderers, but we make sure we come out on top in any dispute with anyone else.

Philippians 2:21

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

[21] 别人都求自己的事，并不求耶稣基督的事。

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known:

[16] 所经过的路便行残害暴虐的事。[17] 平安的路，他们未曾知道；

And all our lives become is “*destruction and misery.*” And no peace in our hearts. And the one thing missing, causing all of this is that:

18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. [18] 他们眼中不怕神。

We need to recognise the human condition. We need to see ourselves as God sees us. This goes against modern psychology, which says that we must have a positive view of ourselves. Job didn't have that. After all his trials, God finally answered him, and he saw himself for what he really was:

Job 40:3-5

Then Job answered the Lord, and said, Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further.

[3] 於是，约伯回答耶和华说：[4] 我是卑贱的！我用甚麽回答你呢？只好用手捂口。[5] 我说了一次，再不回答；说了两次，就不再说。

Job 42:5-6

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

[5] 我从前风闻有你，现在亲眼看见你。[6] 因此我厌恶自己，在尘土和炉灰中懊悔。

May all of us come to this view of ourselves, because without it, we will never see our need of a Saviour.