

Salvation

The Sovereign Grace of our Triune God

“The Bondage of Sin”

Various Texts

Lesson 4

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
June 27, 2010*

The most important lesson!

- ▶ What is the condition of the natural man?
 - Dead in trespasses and sins
 - Key issue: the will of man
- ▶ Foundational to understanding salvation

The truly “most important” lesson

- ▶ “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)
 - The sovereignty of God
 - Eternity of God
 - Omnipotence
 - Wisdom
- ▶ The conflict: human v. Divine
- ▶ “Because God is sovereign, God’s authority can be taken only on God’s authority.”

Remember Now Thy Creator!

Genesis 1-2

- ▶ 6 days of creation
- ▶ God-centered creation
- ▶ Earth-centered creation
- ▶ Man-centered creation
- ▶ The holy and blessed rest

Thou Shalt Surely Die!

Genesis 3

- ▶ Man created in the image of God
- ▶ The first trial of faith
- ▶ The fall of Adam
- ▶ Man evicted from Garden . . . in hope

In Adam All Died

Romans 5:12-21

- ▶ Sin and death came through Adam's sin
- ▶ All are born in the image of Adam
- ▶ Sin, condemnation, death
- ▶ Hope – the last Adam (Romans 12:21)

What is the extent of sin?

- ▶ Dead in trespasses and sins
- ▶ The question of the human will

The Freedom of the Will

- ▶ A defining principle in the doctrine of salvation
- ▶ Definitions
 - “The power of the human will by which a man may apply himself to those things that lead to eternal salvation, or turn away from the same.”
 - “The faculty of discerning, and then of choosing, God, if grace is with it, but evil only, if grace be wanting.”
- ▶ Two realities:
 - The sovereignty of God
 - The sin of man

The argument from Scripture

- ▶ Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- ▶ Joshua 24:14-15
- ▶ Isaiah 1:18-20
- ▶ Ezekiel 18:23, 27-28, 31
- ▶ Zechariah 1:3

The argument from Scripture

- ▶ Matthew 18:14
- ▶ Luke 13:34
- ▶ John 3:16
- ▶ John 11:26
- ▶ Romans 10:13
- ▶ 2 Peter 3:9

The Freedom of the Will

- ▶ God would not mock us
- ▶ The commands of God imply ability to respond
- ▶ God is honored by the free choice of men
- ▶ God's will is prevented by the will of man
- ▶ The condition of the natural man
 - Retains ability to understand his sin and the offer of salvation
 - Retains the ability to make a proper choice

The Bondage of Sin

- ▶ In the Garden of Eden after the fall
- ▶ Genesis 6:5; 8:21
- ▶ Psalm 14:1-3
- ▶ Isaiah 64:6
- ▶ Jeremiah 17:9
- ▶ Micah 7:1-6

The Bondage of Sin

▶ Romans 3:10-18

- All are under sin
- None righteous
- None understands
- None seeks for God
- All turned aside
- No fear of God

The Bondage of Sin

▶ Romans 8:5-8

- Two spheres of life – flesh or Spirit
- Two mindsets – flesh or Spirit
- Mind set on Spirit – life and peace
- Mind set on flesh
 - Hostile to God – not submissive to God's Law
 - Cannot please God – inability

The Bondage of Sin

- ▶ Ephesians 4:17-19
 - Darkened understanding
 - Alienated from the life of God
 - Ignorance and hardness of heart
 - Practice every kind of impurity

The Bondage of Sin

▶ 1 Corinthians 2:14

- Natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God
- Spiritual things are folly – not able to understand

The Bondage of Sin

▶ Ephesians 2:1-3

- Dead in trespasses and sins
- Life lived under the dominion of the world and the devil
- By nature, the children of wrath

▶ Hebrews 11:6

- Without faith, impossible to please God
- Faith that God is and that He rewards
- Faith is pre-requisite for coming to God

The doctrine of total depravity

- ▶ Not as evil as possible . . . but sometimes true
- ▶ Completely separated from God by sin – enmity
- ▶ No desire to change that condition
- ▶ No ability to understand or please God
- ▶ No ability to respond to God's command
- ▶ Under Divine obligation

The doctrine of total depravity

- ▶ The commandment of God does not imply ability
- ▶ It exposes human inability and Divine ability
 - “Let there be light.” (Genesis 1:3)
 - “Lazarus, come forth.” (John 11:43)
 - “Come, I will send you to pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” (Exodus 3:10)
 - “You give them something to eat.” (Matthew 14:16)
 - “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ . . .” (Acts 16:31)
- ▶ The plan of salvation is not to permit men to express human ability but for God to glorify Himself
 - John 17:4-5
 - Romans 11:33-36

The freedom of the will is a fiction!

- ▶ Free moral agency
 - Man chooses according to his knowledge and desires
 - Man's knowledge and desires are in bondage to sin.
 - Men love darkness (John 3:19)
 - To choose good, requires a new heart (John 3:3-5)
- ▶ God does not have a free will
 - God cannot be unfaithful (2 Tim 2:13)
 - God cannot change (Malachi 3:6)
 - God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18)
- ▶ Christ in you, the hope of glory

How can a man be just before God?

Job 9:2

- ▶ The Bible teaches that men do believe in God and choose to seek Christ.
- ▶ The explanation: the sovereign grace of the Triune God – NOT the “free will” of man
- ▶ A man in a well
- ▶ Ezekiel 37 — Ezekiel 36:16-32
- ▶ Stay tuned . . .