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 . . .